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Difficulties have been overcome: Crown Prince Kuwait supports efforts to convene Arab summit

AMMAN, Feb 28, (KUNA): HH the Crown Prince and Premier of Kuwait, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah was quoted here today as saying that Kuwait supports efforts being exerted to convene the regular Arab summit in the Saudi capital of Riyadh.

In press statements, carried here today by two Jordanian newspapers, Al Rai and the Jordan Times, Sheikh Saad said that it was high time to convene the summit.

Speaking on home affairs, Sheikh Saad said Kuwait had overcome all its difficulties, adding security and stability were well maintained.

Stability

Sheikh Saad paid tribute to King Hussein for his efforts aimed at unifying Arab ranks and consolidating Arab solidarity.

"Kuwait greatly appreciates King Hussein's stands in support of Kuwait during hard times," Sheikh Saad said, adding that Jordan's security and stability are Kuwait's security and stability.

He said Kuwait would open its doors for co-operation and con-

solidation of the Jordanian economy through the establishment of joint ventures.

Sheikh Saad voiced Kuwait's support to the newly established Arab Co-operation Council comprising Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and the Yemen Arab Republic. He said any Arab gathering is the correct means to boost Arab solidarity.

Regarding Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's recent visit to Kuwait, Sheikh Saad said it was in the framework of Arab consultations.

"Kuwait is pleased with that visit because it will deepen bilateral relations with sisterly Egypt, and will open horizons of joint work between Kuwait and Egypt," he added.

Important

He said the two sides held intensive talks and that their viewpoints were identical, describing the visit as successful and fruitful.

Commenting on regional and international developments, Sheikh Saad noted that cessation of the Iraq-Iran war was the most important, saying Kuwait had worked with sisterly Arab countries to bring an end to that war. "Iraq has adhered to its stand

calling for ending the war and expressed willingness to accept all peaceful initiatives and suggestions to put an end to the destruction, but Iran has rejected them and insisted on the continuation of war," Sheikh Saad said.

"Iran had tentatively accepted the ceasefire last July. It is well known that the UN-sponsored negotiations in Geneva had contributed to pushing forward peace efforts," he said.

Sheikh Saad said the eight-year long war has its implications "and it is natural that negotiations would take their course," indicating that efforts were currently concentrated on reaching a lasting settlement.

He said decisive talks would be held in the first half of March under UN supervision, adding that all indications affirm that an agreement would be reached soon to put an end to this tragic conflict.

Sheikh Saad said his recent visit to Iraq was "important and fruitful" and availed him the opportunity to have talks and exchange views with both President Saddam Hussein and Deputy Chairman of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council Izzat Ibrahim on

various issues, stressing that it was a chance to strengthen fraternal relations.

Asked about Kuwaiti mediation in settling the Lebanese crisis, Sheikh Saad said: "All that is done falls within the framework of Arab moves and collective responsibility to solve the Lebanese problem."

Solution

The Arab League last January set up a six-man committee under the chairmanship of Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed to try to find out a solution for war-torn Lebanon. In addition to Sheikh Sabah, the committee comprises the foreign ministers of Jordan, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia and the Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi.

The committee held a first round of talks with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Hussein Al Hussein, Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss and head of the military government Gen. Michel Aoun separately in Tunis late last January. The second meeting, to which the country's spiritual Muslim and Christian leaders were invited, was held in Kuwait this month.

"We invited the spiritual leaders for a meeting in Kuwait. Talks were positive and fruitful and we believe that the Kuwaiti talks will contribute to the success of negotiations between influential Lebanese politicians who are due to meet next month with the committee to forge an agreement," Sheikh Saad said.

He pledged that Kuwait would do its utmost to bring an end to the Lebanese tragedy.

Settlement

Speaking on the developments of the Palestinian question, Sheikh Saad said the intifada had necessitated finding a solution to the Middle East problem, saying some countries which have tried previously to neglect this issue today find themselves just as concerned as others to reach a fair and comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian question.

Sheikh Saad was optimistic that the international community, particularly the superpowers, would shoulder their responsibilities and would exert efforts towards settling the Palestinian question, stressing the need to put an end to Israel's aggression, occupation, usurpation and application of the law of the jungle, in order to reach a just and comprehensive solution.



A policeman guarding bags containing the copies of budget outside the Parliament House in New Delhi. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rajiv presents budget aimed at wooing the poor

NEW DELHI, Feb 28, (UPI): Amid an unprecedented opposition boycott, the government today proposed an election year budget calling for greater benefits for India's impoverished majority, higher taxes on the wealthy and on luxury items and a defence spending freeze.

Finance Minister S.B. Chavan presented to the lower house of Parliament, or Lok Sabha, a spending plan of Rs 821.6 billion (about \$54 billion), an increase of eight per cent over the current fiscal year that ends March 31.

The proposed budget projected a massive deficit of Rs 73.4 billion — an 8.2 per cent rise over the present revenue gap — which government critics have said will fuel inflation, currently put by New Delhi at about five per cent and higher by experts.

Dropped

At the centre of the plan were proposals to increase to Rs 39.6 billion funds for programmes for India's rural poor, reflecting an ongoing bid by the government to assuage discontent among the majority of the country's 800 million people in advance of general elections that must be called by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi before the end of the year.

Rajiv's popularity has dropped substantially since he came to power in December 1984, eroded principally by perceptions that he favours India's tiny wealthier class, allegations of

official corruption in defence purchases and a string of state assembly election defeats.

It is the second successive year that his government has proposed huge hikes in allocations of resources for the rural poor.

Included in this year's plan was a Rs 5 billion employment programme named after Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajiv's grandfather and India's first prime minister, whose 100 birth anniversary is being marked this year.

"This new programme will allow fuller employment opportunities to at least one member of each family living below the poverty line," Chavan said.

Measures

Other populist measures included new housing and social programmes, higher food and fertilizer subsidies and a freeze in duties on essential commodities, including edible oils, tea, coffee and petroleum products.

To help fund the plan as it copes with a deficit exacerbated by a revenue shortage and higher foreign and domestic borrowing, the government proposed to hold defence spending at Rs130 billion, putting the brakes on the most ambitious modernisation programme undertaken by the world's fourth largest military since India received independence from Britain in 1947.

(Continued on Page 2)

Iraq to hold presidential election

BAGHDAD, Feb 28, (AP): The government has said that Iraq will hold its first presidential election, but gave no date for the poll, the state-run television reported.

The TV said yesterday the decision to hold a presidential election was originally made in 1980, but the war with Iran which broke out in September that year forced the government to postpone the poll.

Under Iraq's current constitution, the President and vice-president are elected by the ruling nine-member Revolutionary Command Council.

The network said discussions were under way to include a provision for regular presidential elections in a new constitution currently being drafted by a special government committee.

It is headed by the vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, Izzat Ibrahim.

Proposed

The government said yesterday a referendum would be held to approve the proposed new constitution and a new parliamentary election law, allowing new parties to form.

General elections for the 255-member National Assembly, or Parliament, are scheduled for April 1 after being delayed from last August.

The television gave no details about who took the decision to hold the presidential election or when it was made to implement the 1980 decision.

But it said President Saddam Hussein's office had notified a TV law programme on the issue in response to a letter from a citizen who asked: "Why the presidency is a monopoly of the Baath Party?"

There has never been a presidential election in Iraq since the Army overthrew the monarch in a 1958 coup.

Iran denies executions

NICOSIA, Feb 28, (Reuters): Iran's Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi denied today that he had told a Paris-based magazine all dissidents in Iranian prisons had been executed.

The Arabic magazine Al-Mustakbal quoted Mohtashemi yesterday as saying: "To settle this matter once and for all, all those who have been arrested and those who joined them have been executed. They..."

The minister told Iran's official IRNA news agency he had only told the reporter that a large number of dissidents belonging to the opposition Mujahideen-e-Khalq group had been killed or captured when they mounted a military assault into Iran from their bases in Iraq last July.

He said the subject of prisoners was not raised at the interview and what was attributed to him in this regard was "a production of his (the reporter's) imagination," reported IRNA.

Two-day holiday for Miraj

KUWAIT, Feb 28, (KUNA): The cabinet has declared a two-day holiday to mark Isra and Miraj, the anniversary of Prophet Mohammad's (PBUH) ascension to heaven.

All government offices will remain closed on Saturday and Sunday (March 4 and 5) instead of only Sunday as announced earlier, according to Rashed Al Rashid, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs.

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں

- سری لنکا میں سنیوں کا ایک اور قتل عام
- ایران کا یورپیہ کو تعلقات توڑنے کا اعلان
- بھارت میں دقائی
- اخراجات میں اضافہ کا بجٹ
- سرنگر میں سلمان رشدی کے خلاف مزید مظاہرے
- پاکستان کی فوجی لیڈر کا کرکٹ میچ برابر رہا

WEATHER

NORMAL weather with light to moderate south-easterly wind. State of sea: moderate. High water 8:30 am, 4:00 pm. Low water 10:30 am, 11:30 pm. Sunrise 6:25 am. Sunset 5:48 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait 22°C (72°F), Bahrain 19°C (66°F), Fujairah 19°C (66°F). Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait 11°C (52°F), Bahrain 10°C (50°F), Fujairah 12°C (54°F). Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait 22°C (72°F), Bahrain 20°C (68°F), Fujairah 20°C (68°F). Minimum humidity recorded: Kuwait 52 per cent, Bahrain 50 per cent, Fujairah 50 per cent.

Children injured in Israeli raid on Palestinian targets

BEIRUT, Feb 28, (AP): Twenty-six school children were among the wounded after an Israeli air raid today in the Shouf mountains southeast of Beirut.

Police said the casualty toll was two Palestinian commandos killed and 33 people injured.

A police spokesman said the casualties were reported in the village of Ainab, 9.6 miles (14 kilometres) southeast of Beirut.

Empty

He said the two killed were members of Naif Hawatme's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Marxist group that operates under the fold of Yasser Arafat's PLO.

The spokesman, who cannot be named in line with standing rules, said the pupils were wounded by shrapnel and flying glass in Ainab's government-sponsored elementary school, about 200 metres (yards) from the

DFLP base.

He said a rocket fired by one of the six Israeli raiding jets slammed into an empty lot about 25 metres (yards) south of the second-floor school.

The police spokesman said the raiding jets also strafed bases belonging to Syrian-backed militia factions near the Druze villages of Shehlan, Aitah and Bayseur.

The targets range from eight to nine miles (13 to 15 kilometres) southeast of Beirut.

"I heard a big sound... something hit my head," were the words of Rawad Khaddage, who was about to cut the cake for his fourth birthday party when the Israeli jets struck.

Rawad was taken to hospital in a coma, leaving the cake with bright drops of blood spattered over the white icing.

DFLP spokesman Suheil Natour, said the group's base in

Ainab "took several direct hits."

He said the DFLP "stresses its determination to step up the struggle and military strikes against Israeli occupation forces."

Returned

An Israeli military spokesman said in Jerusalem that the raid was directed against a command headquarters of the DFLP.

All our planes returned safely, and the targets were destroyed," the spokesman added. Palestinian as well as Druze and Shiite Muslim militia gunners fired anti-aircraft guns at the raiding planes from positions in the mountains and around Beirut international airport, but no hits were reported, a police spokesman said.

The UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar deplores Israel's air raid in Lebanon and the civilian casualties it caused, a UN spokesman said.

Iran to supply gas to Eastern Europe

Moscow hopes for better relations with Tehran

MANAMA, Feb 28, (UPI): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze secured an Iranian promise to supply natural gas to Eastern Europe and said yesterday that Soviet-Iranian ties can expand further, despite ideological differences.

Shevardnadze met with Iranian Premier Mir-Hussein Musavi and President Ali Khamenei before leaving Tehran for Moscow at the end of his 10-day Middle East tour. He returned to the Soviet capital yesterday.

The British Broadcasting Corp. quoted Iran's state-run Tehran Radio as saying both sides agreed to a pipeline that will supply natural gas to Eastern Europe. Earlier, Iran agreed to export natural gas to the Soviet Union, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

Pressure

The talks between Shevardnadze and the Iranians also focussed on reopening peace talks between Iran and Moscow-backed Iraq. UN officials have said the negotiations will resume in New York next month.

Khamenei asked Shevardnadze to pressure Iraq into making concessions that would allow progress in stalled Gulf peace talks.

"If peace in this area is desirable, pressure should be brought to bear on Iraq and your government more than any other can put on this pressure," Tehran Radio, quoted Khamenei as telling his Soviet guest.

The trade agreements on natural gas and his rare meeting with Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini were the most tangible payoffs to Moscow's new diplomatic initiative in the Middle East.

During his meeting on Sunday with Shevardnadze, Khomeini reportedly stressed good neighbourly ties and the expansion of strong ties in confronting "the devilish acts of the West."

Events

Before leaving, Shevardnadze described his talks with Iranian leaders as a "turning point" in relations between the two states, adding that similar events, "would cause further expansion of good relations between Iran and the Soviet Union, despite our ideological differences," IRNA reported.

Although the improvement in ties with the Soviet bloc was seen as a snub against the West, experts also saw it as an economic necessity, given Iran's need to reconstruct its war-shattered economy without foreign loans.

Smoking leads to top-heavy arrangement of fat

CHICAGO, Feb 28, (UPI):

Although men who smoke may weigh less, more of their body fat is deposited around the waist in a spare tyre pattern linked to higher risk of heart disease, diabetes and premature death, doctors have said.

Writing in the Journal of the American Medical Association, a team of researchers from the National Institute on Ageing in Baltimore found that men who smoke have more fat stored around the waist and proportionally less stored on the hips, compared to non-smokers or men who have quit smoking.

Pressure

"This is one more harmful effect of cigarette smoking — if you need one more," said Dr. Reubin Andres, one of the authors of the study. Researchers have found that a more top-heavy arrangement of fat — a higher ratio of waist to hip circumference — is associated with high blood pressure, blood sugar problems and abnormal levels of fats and cholesterol in the blood.

Moscow ready to mediate

UK rejects Iranian ultimatum on Rushdie

NICOSIA, Feb 28, (Reuters): Iran today gave Britain one week to denounce author Salman Rushdie or lose diplomatic ties with Tehran, an ultimatum instantly rejected by London.

Hours after Iran's Parliament set the deadline, the Soviet Union for the first time publicly stepped into the row caused by the British writer's novel The Satanic Verses.

Moscow said it might be willing to mediate in the affair which was causing its leaders grave concern and had been discussed last Monday by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze while he was in Tehran.

Injured

At least 20 people have been killed and hundreds injured in Muslim demonstrations against the book, viewed as blasphemous to Islam. Another 25 people were injured in the Indian city of Srinagar today in a second day of anti-Rushdie violence.

Foreign Office spokesman said today it was up to Iran to decide whether it wanted normal relations.

No change could be expected in London's stand condemning the order made twice this month by Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini that Rushdie be killed.

The Iranian Parliament voted overwhelmingly to cut ties with Britain unless the government declared within a week "its opposition to the unprincipled stands against the world of Islam, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the contents of the anti-Islamic book The Satanic Verses."

Britain has already recalled its five staff from the Tehran embassy, reopened in December after years of strained relations with revolutionary Iran, and ordered Iran's two envoys home from London.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said yesterday relations with Iran have effectively been broken. She said there

was no longer any direct contact with Iran. Contacts are now being maintained through the Swedish embassy, she added.

Rushdie outraged many other Western countries and provoked the recall of top diplomats by the other European Economic Community countries and others.

The row over the award-winning book by the 41-year-old writer brought more divided reaction from Muslim leaders today.

Trial

In Pakistan, which has banned the novel, the chairman of the upper house of Parliament said nobody should be sentenced to death without a trial.

Wasim Sajjad said: "As Pakistanis we believe that Islam also gives you a right to a trial." Khomeini has dismissed any chance of Rushdie avoiding death and hell, saying he could not be forgiven even if he repented.

Rushdie, born into a Muslim

family in Bombay, apologised earlier this month for offending Muslims.

Islamic scholars meeting in Islam's holiest city, Makkah, rejected this apology. In a statement carried by Saudi Arabia's official news agency (SPA) today the Islamic Fiqh (jurisprudence) Academy said: "It is an apology that changes nothing about his criminal lies..."

Ugly

The academy said its scholars had read part of the book. "The academy saw in it the most ugly and filthy picture of the ugly lies and descriptions used by the book to portray Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) ... and his wives, the mothers of the faithful."

In France, the leader of the country's four million Muslims urged the government to ban the book although he appealed for calm after a weekend demonstration which had repeated demands for the novelist's killing.

Sudanese call for peace with rebels

KHARTOUM, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Sudan's trade unions and political parties have urged embattled Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi to dissolve his coalition government and accept peace with southern rebels.

The official Sudan news agency reported today that the 37 parties and unions had also called for the formation of a broad-based government to include all political parties and trade unions.

Similar proposals for a new government were rejected earlier this week by the militant National Islamic Front (NIF), main partner with Mahdi's Umma Party in the coalition.

Support
The agency said the 37 groups signed their statement yesterday at the headquarters of the Democratic Unionist Party, which late last year negotiated a peace pact with rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The DUP quit Mahdi's government in protest when parliament rejected the pact.

The new demands were issued with the expiry of an ultimatum

given Mahdi by his generals to introduce reform and ensure more support for the 60,000 strong Army, which has suffered a string of defeats at the hands of SPLA.

The generals have given no public response to Mahdi's announcement in Parliament yesterday that he would resign on Sunday unless he was given a free hand to form a new, broad-based government.

Mahdi, in office for nearly three years, also demanded assurances from the military that it would continue to respect the constitution and asked trade unions to stop strikes while the six-year-long war continued.

Defence sources today said senior Army officers were meeting in the military headquarters in central Khartoum.

The Army has yet to make a statement on a claim by the SPLA yesterday that its guerrillas had captured the town of Torit.

The SPLA has been fighting in the animist and Christian south since 1983 to end what it sees as the rule of a Muslim minority clique in Khartoum.

East Germans protest at Berlin Wall death

EAST BERLIN, Feb. 28. (Reuters): About 40 East Germans have staged a march through the southern city of Halle in the first known public protest over the fatal shooting of a man at the Berlin Wall this month. Protestant church sources said today.

The sources, in Halle and East Berlin, said the protesters gathered at a church on the central market place on Sunday morning and walked through the city for about an hour to another church where they held a service.

"It was a show of solidarity and also to protest against shooting at the wall," said one source.

East German border guards shot 20-year-old waiter Chris Gueffroy as he was trying to escape to West Berlin early on Feb. 6. He was killed and a friend wounded and captured.

Gueffroy was the first to die in

an escape attempt in two years but the 78th since the wall was built in 1961 to stop East Germans fleeing to the West.

The sources said some of those who took part in the march were waiting for exit papers to West Germany and others were from unofficial church-based groups.

They said Gueffroy's name was mentioned at the service in the Christus church and prayers said for him and his family.

Plainclothes security police accompanied the marchers but did not intervene and there were no incidents or detentions.

Flights delayed

ROME, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Flights in and out of Italy are likely to be delayed during a 24-hour work-to-rule by air traffic controllers beginning at midnight (2300 GMT), airport officials said today.

US, China agree to judge Soviets by their actions

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28. (Agencies): President George Bush returned home from a five-day Asian trip and moved to take command of the battle to win confirmation for John Tower as defence secretary.

In a prepared statement he read in chilly darkness at Andrews Air Force base last night, Bush said his trip to Japan, China and South Korea demonstrated that the United States "is and will remain a Pacific power."

Bush said his talks with Chinese leaders had convinced him that China "approaches its thaw with the Soviets with caution and realism."

"We agreed that the Soviets must be judged not by their rhetoric but by their actions, such as whether the Soviet Union actually draws down its military forces along China's border and persists in encouraging Vietnam to completely withdraw from Kampuchea," Bush said.

Withdrawal

He said the United States and China agreed that once Vietnam completes its withdrawal from Kampuchea, elections should be held there under an interim government headed by opposition leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Bush met with Sihanouk in Beijing.

Bush reiterated US objections to a return to power of the Chinese-supported Khmer Rouge in Kampuchea. "The Chinese leaders appreciate our concern and are willing to work toward a peaceful coalition," he said.

He did not say whether China had promised to stop its support of the Khmer Rouge or what role the Khmer, who are part of the Kampuchean rebel coalition, would have in an interim government.

Bush, commenting on attacks against Tower, told reporters that his nominees was "the best man for the job, knowledge, defence matters... and no one's challenged his qualifications."

He was prepared to launch into meetings with key Democratic senators this morning in a bid to persuade a Senate majority to confirm Tower for the post later this week.

Albanian miners force politicians to resign

Half a million Serbs march in protest

BELGRADE, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Half a million Serbs marched on the Yugoslav Parliament in Belgrade today in a backlash protest after striking ethnic Albanian miners forced three top pro-Serbian politicians to resign in Kosovo.

The official Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said 300,000 people had taken to the streets. Police and eyewitnesses put the figure at over 500,000.

Tanjug said Serbs and Montenegrins had also staged protests in the republic of Montenegro and the province of Vojvodina and Kosovo.

Troops and tanks were deployed throughout Kosovo early today as the miners ended an eight-day underground sit-in.

A Reuters correspondent in Kosovo, one of two autonomous

provinces within Serbia, said tanks and trucks carrying troops were on the move on all major roads in the province throughout last night.

Horns

Protesters chanting "Kosovo is Serbia" poured into Belgrade's Marx and Engels Square to mass in front of Parliament. They carried Yugoslav, Serbian and Communist Party flags and demanded that Yugoslav state President Rado Daskalovic and party chief Stipe Suvor address them.

Scores of flag-draped taxis, their horns blaring, drove in columns through the city.

The miners at the Mitrovica zinc mine, 180 km (110 miles) south of Belgrade, sparked off a general strike in Kosovo against

plans to increase Serbian control over the province which borders Albania.

Although they ended their strike last night, turmoil persisted in the province and Yugoslavia's state presidency ordered troops in yesterday to protect "constitutional order, law and order, property and personal security."

Resignations

About 8,000 students maintained a mass sit-in at a sports complex in the Kosovo capital Pristina today and Serbian and Montenegrin workers have begun rival protests.

Regional rows have reached boiling point in Yugoslavia with the northern republics of Slovenia and Croatia accusing Serbian Communist Party leader

Slobodan Milosevic of trying to create a centralistic, Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

The miners won the resignations of Kosovo party chief Rahman Morina, Pristina party boss Husamedin Azemi and Ali Sukrija, a member of the Yugoslav central committee.

The resignations were a major blow to Milosevic who had backed Azemi and Morina.

The Belgrade demonstrators opposed the resignations, saying the three men were forced to resign because they had cracked down on Albanian nationalism.

Thousands of Serbs have fled Kosovo since ethnic Albanian riots in 1981, alleging persecution by the Albanians who outnumber the Serbs and Montenegrins by 1.7 million to only 200,000.

Nobel prize holder Lorenz dies

VIENNA, Austria, Feb. 28. (AP): Austrian scientist Konrad Lorenz, winner of the 1973 Nobel prize for medicine, died last night at his home northeast of Vienna, the Austrian Academy of Sciences said today. He was 85.

The cause of death was given as kidney failure, the Austria Press Agency reported.

Lorenz was Austria's most famed scientist, holding doctorates in medicine, zoology and psychology and renowned for his studies of individual and collective behaviour.

In 1973, his behaviour research won him the Nobel prize for medicine together with Karl von Frisch and Nikolaas Tinbergen.

Lorenz was credited above all with the discovery of a process known as imprinting, a rapid learning process that occurs early in life.

Born in Vienna Nov. 7, 1903, the son of a well-known surgeon, Lorenz gained his first doctorate in medicine at the age of 25. Further studies in zoology and psychology followed in Vienna and New York, culminating in a 1933 doctorate based on his research into the behaviour of birds.

Airlines asked for lock checks on 747s

Disaster Boeing cargo door had electrical problems: investigators

HONOLULU, Feb. 28. (Reuters): The Boeing 747 cargo door that blew open over the Pacific, sucking nine people to their deaths, had an electrical fault in December and trouble with a door seal in January, federal investigators said.

The nine were among 354 people aboard United Airlines flight 811 when the hole opened up in the passenger cabin 22,000 feet (6,700 metres) above the Pacific Ocean last Friday. The jetliner, on a flight to New Zealand, returned to Honolulu.

National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigator Lee Dickinson told a news conference last night that the 19-year-old jumbo jet's maintenance records had revealed the two previous faults with the forward cargo door.

Significance

Dickinson would not elaborate on the significance of the finding but federal investigators said on Sunday they were looking at the possibility the right forward cargo-hold door opened in flight, ripping off a section of the fuselage.

In Sydney, a United Airlines 747 bound for Honolulu was delayed for 18 hours over last night with cargo door problems. United Airlines spokesman

Sean McNamara said inspectors in Sydney had found a faulty pin in a rear cargo door of the 747-100 jet, the same class as the one in Friday's incident.

The Boeing company, meanwhile, has advised airlines to test the locking system on all 747 cargo doors, a spokesman for the aircraft builder in Seattle said yesterday. David Jimenez said the advisory "was nothing more than a prudent action."

The New York Times reported that the US airline industry would issue a report today calling for the most sweeping repair programme on ageing airliners in commercial aviation, involving as many as 1,000 commercial jets and costing hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Air Transport Association has been working since last summer on the report to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Its release so soon after the United Airlines accident was coincidental, the newspaper said.

Fault

The report says as many as 200 repairs must be made to some 700 Boeing jets, including 747s of similar age and service record to the United 747 involved in Friday's accident, and to Boeing 727s and 737s, it said.

Dickinson said the electrical fault on the 10-by-10-foot (3 by 3 metre) door in December required ground crew to shut it manually. The maintenance records also showed a problem with a seal on the door in January but it was repaired.

The cargo door is still missing somewhere in the Pacific.

The NTSB has refused to speculate on what caused the loss of the door and the ripping away of a section of fuselage above it, but Dickinson said earlier that there was no evidence of a bomb or metal fatigue or corrosion.

He said the board is expected to complete its on-site investigation by the end of the week but it could take up to a year for the investigation to produce its final report.

Dickinson said the force of the air rushing out of the plane, which the crew has said made a loud explosive sound, was so great that it shoved two lavatories about 12 inches (304 mm) toward the front of the 747. He said a coffee serving tray was found stuck in the ceiling of the passenger cabin.

At the time of the accident, according to Dickinson, the pressure inside the aircraft at that altitude would have been 10 to 12 times greater than outside.

Protest against price increases

25 killed in Venezuela riots

CARACAS, Venezuela, Feb. 28. (AP): Mobs continued to loot stores today and a police official said rioting over price increases had left about 25 people dead in the Caracas area. Hospitals were overflowing with injured.

President Carlos Andres Perez said the rioting was "unjustified," while an opposition leader called for continued protests against government economic programmes.

In the capital, Army trucks full of troops patrolled some streets, while blocks away looters made off with furniture and appliances from stores.

Injured

Streets were littered with glass and charred remains of cars from the rioting that began at dawn yesterday and continued through the night.

"We're waiting for orders," said a national guardman when asked why soldiers allowed the continued looting in Caracas.

"All police forces are in a state of emergency. ... I cannot give you exact figures, but around 25 people have died and no one knows how many injured," the police official said. "Hospitals can no longer cope... people just keep coming and coming."

The official said about 1,000 people had been arrested, and that information from other parts of the country was not available.

Schools were suspended today. Banks said they would reopen tomorrow under strict security measures.

The worst riots this country has known in the past 30 years began yesterday with a govern-

ment announcement of price hikes of up to 50 per cent in public transportation.

Transportation union leaders have said the increases announced by the government, averaging 30 per cent across the country, would not be enough to cover their costs.

There were no buses on the streets today.

The price hikes were the first step of an economic reform package by Perez designed to move the country from a state-subsidized economy and get fresh loans from international bankers.

Looting

Perez said he understood the anger of the looters but called their action "unjustified," according to media reports today.

"The looting doesn't surprise me, but it does worry me," he was quoted as saying. He announced no measures to be taken against the looting.

Interior Minister Alejandro Izaguirre, in a nationwide television address yesterday, warned that the government would not tolerate further rioting in Venezuela, which has been one of the most stable countries on the south American continent.

Deputy Police Commissioner Alex Martinez said the violence was the nation's worst since Jan. 23, 1958, when a civilian-military insurrection toppled dictator Marcos Perez Jimenez.

Intolerable

Abdon Vivas Teran, leader of the main Christian-Democrat opposition party, said the government's economic programme was "intolerable" and called for continued protests, although he did not sanction the looters.

"These acts are spontaneous and will lead to increased violence," he predicted on a television interview programme this morning.

He called on the country to reject negotiations with the International Monetary Fund that he said would lead to "fattening the belly of the government, and squeezing the rest of the country to keep the bankers happy."

234 parties

RANGOON, Feb. 28. (AP): A total of 234 political parties registered by today's deadline for general elections expected in April or May 1990.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Four convicted

COTONOU, Benin, Feb. 28. (AP): The state security court has convicted four men, including two Army officers, of plotting to assassinate President Mathieu Kerekou, and handed down sentences ranging from five to 20 years in prison.

The prosecution had demanded the maximum penalty of life imprisonment for all four.

Witnesses at the trial said the former Libyan Ambassador, Mostafa Abouetta, had inspired the June 1988 plot. Abouetta hurriedly left Benin shortly after the four were arrested.

Emergency landing

LUSAKA, Feb. 28. (AP): The state-owned airline said today its New York-bound McDonnell Douglas DC10 made an emergency landing after a bird was sucked into one of its three engines.

Zambia Airways general manager Capt. Godfrey Mulimudika said the engine was seriously damaged in the incident on take-off from Lusaka airport late yesterday.

He said the plane's captain, whom he did not name, dumped its fuel and landed safely on two engines.

Winnie Mandela

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 28. (AP): Winnie Mandela personally initiated an attack on four young men in her home, using her fists and a rawhide whip to beat them, including a teenager who later died, the survivors reportedly said in affidavits.

According to sources who have seen the men's affidavits, Mrs. Mandela's live-in bodyguards — known as the Mandela United Soccer Club — then attacked them with whips and bottles and threw them against the walls, the Los Angeles Times reported today.

Mrs. Mandela has denied knowledge of the death of 14-year-old Stompie Mokhele. The Times said she refused requests for interviews.

Anti-abuse law

MOSCOW, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Soviet psychiatrists are treating fewer patients following new laws to guard against abuses, a panel of leading doctors said today.

The doctors, addressing a news conference, also said they were doing their utmost to co-operate with a team of US doctors in Moscow to assess the current state of Soviet psychiatry.

The US team, which arrived last weekend, says it has been granted access to any of the patients or institutions it wished to visit during an unprecedented two-week mission.

Jaruzelski warns

WARSAW, Feb. 28. (UPI): Polish leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski indicated he might use the Army again to crush the political opposition if it attempts to overthrow the communist system but added he currently sees no such threat, the Communist Party's newspaper Trybuna Ludu said today.

"He who has such an idea should put the thought out of his mind," Jaruzelski said in an address to the Army officers in the northern city of Bydgoszcz last evening carried by Trybuna.

Rajiv presents budget aimed at wooing ...

(Continued from Page 1)

In addition, Chavan announced an eight per cent surcharge on annual salaries over Rs 50,000 and higher taxes for certain imports, luxury hotels, travel and expensive consumer items, including electronic equipment and cars.

Chavan delivered the budget address on the second day of an indefinite boycott launched by members of 14 opposition parties.

It was the first time since independence that the opposition has refused to attend a budget presentation.

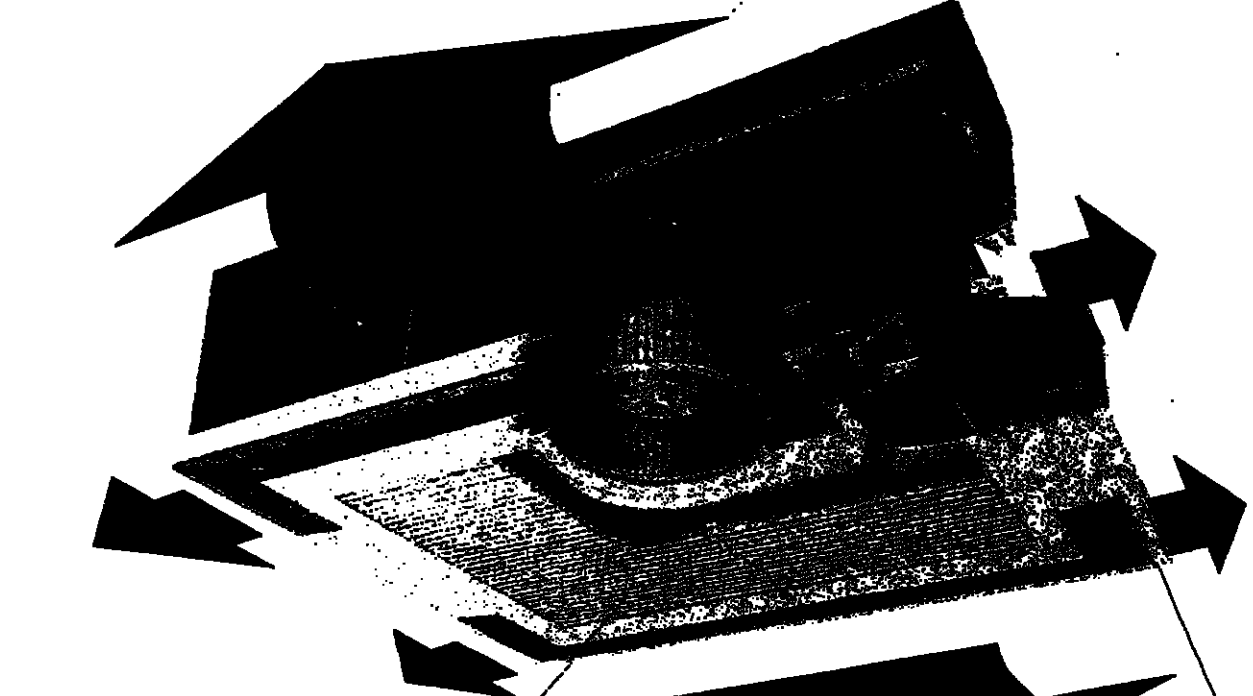
Rajiv today apologised to the opposition for accusing them of supporting Sikh extremists fighting since 1983 to create in northern Punjab state the independent theocratic nation of Khalistan.

"If anything I have said has hurt members of the opposition, I am sorry," Rajiv said on the floor of the 544-seat chamber, where his Congress (I) Party holds a more than two-thirds majority.

But opposition lawmakers rejected Rajiv's overtures, saying it fell short of the unqualified apology they had demanded in return for ending their boycott.

"The apology is not proper or appropriate," said Shanti Lal Patel, a lawmaker of the Janata Party. "There are too many 'ifs' and 'buts' in his statement," said another official of the party.

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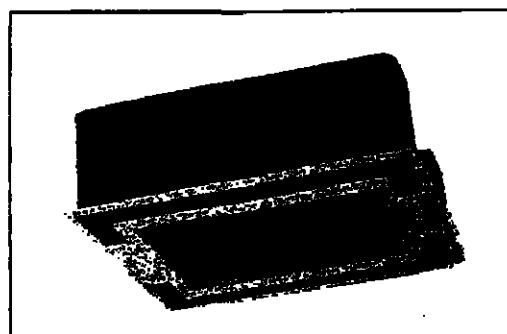
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INTERNATIONAL

West dragging its feet on improving ties: Soviet aide

MOSCOW, Feb 28. (Reuters): A top aide to Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev, in remarks clearly aimed primarily at the United States, has accused the West of dragging its feet on improving relations with the Soviet bloc. Pravda reported today.

Alexander Yakovlev, speaking only a week before the first formal high-level contacts between the Kremlin and the new US administration, said "cold war" attitudes still influenced Western leaders in their attitudes to the East.

"Official political thinking in the West continues to make use of the concepts of hostility and confrontation," Yakovlev, a member of the Communist Party's ruling politburo, told a meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia.

"Movement in Western thinking is only just beginning. It is a long way from full understanding that the policy of military strength has no future, and even more from rejecting it."

Influence
Yakovlev, 65, has a strong influence on formulation of foreign policy and is widely regarded as one of the most radical reformers in the Kremlin leadership — although he has a long record as a bitter critic of the United States.

His remarks in Tbilisi indicated clearly growing concern in Moscow over the position of President George Bush's administration on relations with

the Soviet Union and further moves towards disarmament.

"COCOM, trade restrictions against the USSR and the socialist countries, the unceasing talk about the modernisation of weaponry, appeals not to rush into responses to Soviet initiatives — is this not all the heritage of the cold war, a desire not to move fast in reducing tension?" he asked.

Concerns

There seemed little doubt that his list of concerns formed part of the background agenda for next week's Vienna meeting between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Bush's Secretary of State James Baker.

Baker has urged caution on any slackening of Western rules, co-ordinated through the Paris-based COCOM co-ordinating committee, on technology transfers to the East and strongly championed updating of NATO nuclear weaponry in Europe.

The Bush administration, to some considerable criticism at home, has also insisted it will not move quickly towards negotiating new agreements with Moscow on arms reductions or other areas of the superpower relationship.

Yakovlev, who once studied in the United States, said that despite the problems he outlined there was a growing recognition in the West that confrontation and the accumulation of nuclear weaponry simply led mankind into a blind alley.

PLO not responsible for raids: Kaddoumi

BAGHDAD, Feb 28. (Reuters): The PLO in remarks published today said it could not be expected to control the actions of its splinter groups and also criticised as weak the European response to its peace overtures.

"The PLO is not prepared to condemn operations which any Palestinian organisation or faction undertakes," Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Foreign Affairs spokesman Farouq Kaddoumi was quoted as saying by the Ashghar Al-Awsat newspaper.

Kaddoumi was apparently referring to a reported attempt last week to infiltrate Israel by guerrillas of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The United States said the PLO should be held responsible for the guerrilla action.

Individuals

"It is not easy for a leadership, a revolutionary movement or a country to control its people completely except if it has prison, laws and regulations which limit some human activities which hurt human freedom and the society," Kaddoumi told the

newspaper during a stopover in Riyadh on his way to Ethiopia. The United States yesterday said the PLO could not escape responsibility for acts by its constituent elements and announced plans for a meeting with the PLO to discuss the raid.

Kaddoumi added: "Individuals or groups might undertake these kinds of (guerrilla) operations, but the PLO does not." In a separate interview in Iraq with the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al-Thawra, Salah Khalaf, deputy to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, said the European Economic Community had failed to react positively enough to the recent Palestinian peace overtures.

"(French President Francois) Mitterrand used to say he would receive Arafat at the Elysee (presidential palace) as soon as he recognises Resolution 242. The PLO did so, but Arafat was not received," he said.

United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338 urge the territorial integrity of all nations in the Middle East be respected, implicitly recognising Israel's right to exist.



Fang: undesirable

China blames Bush for inviting dissident

BEIJING, Feb 28. (UPI): China refused to back down today from its decision to bar a prominent dissident from dining with President Bush, saying it blamed the United States for the incident and "resented" the President's decision to extend the invitation. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman also indicated Bush had insulted Chinese leaders by inviting Fang Lizhi, China's most outspoken dissident, to a banquet the President hosted during his 40-hour weekend visit to Beijing.

"The US side, without consulting the Chinese side, invited Fang to attend the dinner, which was especially in honour of Chinese leaders," the official Xinhua news agency said in a brief dispatch today.

"Therefore, the Chinese side resented this," the agency quoted an unnamed Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying.

The United States also had violated arrangements agreed to by both sides before the presidential visit, the agency said.

Relations

Bush, who was warned by Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang that American interest in Chinese dissidents could harm Sino-US relations, expressed his "regret" over the incident to Chinese officials before leaving for Seoul and then back home to Washington.

China turned the phrase right back at the President and said it "expressed regret that some people have made an issue of the absence" of Fang, who has challenged the leadership of the Communist Party.

Fang and his wife, Li Shuxian, were invited by Bush as a strong signal to Beijing on US concerns over human rights in China. They were stopped on Sunday night by police near the hotel where Bush threw a Texas-style barbecue attended by Chinese President Yang Shangkun, Premier Li Peng and other senior officials.

The extraordinary action was an embarrassing return signal from Beijing and marred what was supposed to have been a sentimental journey for Bush back to the city where he served as US envoy in 1974-1975.

Kabul upset over US arms supplies to mujahedeen

Najib can seek Soviet air help

LONDON, Feb 28. (Reuters): Afghan President Najibullah said in remarks published today he can request Soviet air attacks against mujahedeen despite the Kremlin's troop withdrawal.

Britain's Guardian newspaper reported Najibullah said he could ask for the air strikes against "enemy formations" in his country under what he termed legally binding agreements on joint defensive action against external threat.

He criticised the United States for shipping arms to mujahedeen groups at a time when he said rebel blockades were causing food and fuel shortages in Kabul.

He told the newspaper there was no justification for delivering more weapons to the mujahedeen groups now that Soviet troops have pulled out of Afghanistan.

"At such a moment how can (President) Bush declare that they're delivering more arms to the opposition," Najibullah was quoted as saying. "They claim to stand for human rights but in

practice they stand against them."

Bush has rejected a Soviet call to end US support for rebels who had been fighting Soviet troops and the Kabul government for nine years.

Najibullah was quoted as welcoming Washington's decision to delay recognition of a rebel interim government.

Defection

Meanwhile, thousands of Afghan troops and militiamen defected to rebels the day after the last Soviet soldier left Afghanistan on Feb 15, Western diplomatic sources said today.

The sources said they could not confirm the figure of more than 10,000 defectors — two Army regiments and militiamen — given by the rebel mujahedeen Jamiat-e-Islami group.

"We cannot yet verify all the details, but several thousand Afghan troops defected to the mujahedeen with their weapons, including tanks," one source said.

A Jamiat-e-Islami spokesman

said the defections took place on Feb 16 in the provinces of Badkshan and Takhar, north of the Afghan capital, Kabul.

He said the troops defected to the "council of the north," a coalition of mujahedeen groups led by famed Jamiat commander Ahmad Shah Masood.

Weapons

The spokesman said Regiments 543 and 544 of the Afghan Army under the command of Majors Abdul Rahim and Abdul Rashid Qatari brought 15 tanks and armoured personnel carriers, 10,000 AK-47 assault rifles and other weaponry with them.

The diplomatic sources said the regiments were based 25 and 50 km from the Soviet border.

The mujahedeen have often claimed that many soldiers in the 40,000-man Afghan Army have asked to defect but have been told to stay in place until the rebels had food and supplies for them.

The Kabul government of Najibullah claims to have

500,000 men under arms, including the Air Force and militia, a figure Western diplomats consider exaggerated.

They put the figure at nearer 200,000, with no more than a quarter of that number considered completely loyal to Kabul.

The departure of a Soviet force that once numbered over 100,000 men after an unsuccessful nine-year war against the mujahedeen leaves Kabul's troops to fight on alone.

Senior mujahedeen politicians say they expect the Kabul government to fall within weeks, if not months, and that the guerrillas would prefer defections to lead the way.

The mujahedeen, who control most of the Afghan countryside, are trying to lay siege to Kabul and other main cities still under government control.

They say they do not want to storm the cities, causing further bloodshed in a war that by Western estimates has caused more than one million deaths.

Release of Palestinian prisoners demanded

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Feb 28. (AP): An anonymous caller belonging to a group claiming to hold captive a missing Israeli paratrooper today, demanded the release of 1,500 Palestinian prisoners in exchange for the soldier's freedom.

Speaking Hebrew with an Arab accent, the caller told Israel Radio the 21-year-old soldier would be killed if the demand was not met.

Also today, the Army announced a 25-year-old Palestinian was killed by troops during a clash in the West Bank village of Deir Abzieh the night before.

The man, identified as Atwa Lufli Daromar, was dead on arrival with a bullet wound to the head, according to doctors at Ramallah hospital.

The death brought to 387 the number of Palestinians killed in the 14-month Arab uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Seventeen Israelis also have died.

Pro-PLO underground leaders of the uprising, meanwhile, ordered all public and private vehicles off the streets during a general strike in the occupied territories and Arab East Jerusalem.

The shutdown was called to ensure that the boycott of municipal elections today was adhered to by East Jerusalem's 70,000 Arab voters. Leaflets distributed by the underground group said "hit teams" would punish Palestinians who broke the transportation ban.

At the same time, the Army ordered the occupied territories sealed today, barring West Bank and Gaza Strip residents from entering Israel.

Protests erupted in Gaza City, where Palestinian reporters said Arab demonstrators erected roadblocks, burned tyres and hurled rocks at troops.

Iran Air jet returns after bomb threat

NICOSIA, Feb 28. (Reuters): An Iran Air Boeing 747 jumbo jet with 216 passengers bound for Karachi returned to Tehran's Mehrabad airport today after an anonymous caller said a bomb was on board, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

The agency, received in Nicosia, said no bomb or suspicious object was found during an initial search of the plane after it had landed.

Flight 812 to Karachi and Bombay was ordered to return 15 minutes after it took off from Mehrabad this morning, IRNA said.

The threat was received at the Tehran telephone exchange. The flight was re-scheduled using a substitute plane for later today, IRNA said.

Marcos' flat in New York sold for \$3.7m

NEW YORK, Feb 28. (Reuters): The Philippine government sold a luxury Manhattan apartment purchased for the use of ousted President Ferdinand Marcos and said the proceeds of the \$3.7 million sale would go to help peasants buy land.

The 10-room flat is the first of several US properties allegedly owned by Marcos and his wife, Imelda, to be sold in an effort to recover millions of dollars the Philippine government says, the Marcoses fraudulently obtained.

Two other Marcos properties in the United States are also on the market — a 13-acre long island estate with an asking price of \$4.5 million and a house in Honolulu, Hawaii, going for \$2.5 million, said Teresa Roxas, a spokeswoman for the Philippine Presidential Commission on Good Government in New York.

Roxas told Reuters the properties were originally purchased by Marcos' friend Antonio Floindo through an off-shore company called Theta Ventures Ltd, controlled by the Marcoses.

"Floindo is now back in the Philippines," said Roxas. He had handed over the three properties to the commission as part of a settlement he reached with the government of President Corazon Aquino, who took over when a popular rising forced Marcos into exile in Hawaii in 1986.

Majority of victims Sinhalese

Tamils massacre 35 civilians

COLOMBO, Feb 28. (Reuters): Tamil guerrillas shot and hacked to death 35 civilians of Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese community in an attack on a village last night, military sources said.

Guerrillas armed with guns, swords and knives stormed Borawewa in the north-central province, the sources said, adding they suspected the rebels belonged to the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Five people were injured.

Brutality

The sources said 16 more bodies were found in the jungle this morning after initial police reports said 19 had been killed in the attack.

Nine children and four women were among the dead, some of whom were cut to pieces. Police said there were about 30 attackers.

African chimpanzee: endangered species

WASHINGTON, Feb 28. (UPI): The government declared the African chimpanzee an endangered species today, despite concerns by medical researchers about threats to its use of man's closest animal relative in AIDS studies.

In approving a petition by world-famous chimpanzee researcher Jane Goodall and wildlife groups seeking endangered status for one of the most intelligent of all primates, the US Fish and Wildlife Service banned the importation of chimpanzees caught in the wild.

However, to meet concerns that its ruling might hamper biomedical research, the agency

said it would allow continued use of chimpanzees already in captivity in US laboratories as well as zoos, circuses and other private facilities.

It also will permit importation of chimps bred in captivity abroad, with the exception of facilities in Africa.

Import

Wildlife groups said the decision to ban importation of any chimps from Africa was a key element of the ruling by closing a major loophole in current law enabling poachers to sidestep trade restrictions by falsely declaring that chimps caught in the wild were born in "captive"

colonies.

The government has listed chimpanzees as "threatened" since 1976 and federal officials say there has been no major legal importation of wild chimpanzees into the United States for more than a decade.

But wildlife groups estimated that about 100 to 150 chimpanzees — mostly infants — are illegally smuggled out of Africa each year. While that number is relatively small, the groups say that 10 chimps die abroad for every chimp received alive abroad.

Altogether, experts estimate there are about 175,000 chimpanzees left in Africa.

Aquino — the court of last resort

MANILA, Feb 28. (AP): Some need help in tracking down missing spouses. Others appeal for government benefits. And they come to President Corazon Aquino as their court of last resort.

Every year, thousands of ordinary Filipinos turn to Aquino, as they did to her predecessors, for help within the mundane problems of life and in side-stepping a bloated, cumbersome bureaucracy and ineffectual local government.

They might not be the sort of problems that would involve the White House.

But in a paternalistic society, tradition demands that the boss take care of subordinates. The President is not only expected to wrestle with complex issues of statecraft but also unravel red tape and intercede on behalf of the average Filipino.

Leadership

"With a historical background of colonialism and a succession of governors-general in Spanish and American times, the datus (native chiefs) and sultans before that, the Filipino has been oriented to a strong, one-man leadership as the source of all solutions," wrote commentator Luis Beltran in the Manila Standard.

Ricardo Galing, director of the presidential office of public assistance, said his department processed more than 30,000 requests for assistance in 1987, the last year when complete records were available.

The office was established in the 1950s and maintaining a staff of about 100 people to help with citizen complaints.

Galing said some of the appeals come from town mayors, village officials and even congressmen seeking help from constituents. But most come from ordinary people, he said.



Aquino: help

"About 80 per cent of those who come here to ask the government for help are our brothers and sisters in the depressed areas of the country," Galing said.

Jobs

He said the most common requests involve applications for government jobs, medical assistance or resolving rental, labour and property disputes.

A few seek help in marital disputes or tracking down spouses who went abroad for work and disappeared, he said. There were no figures on how many problems had been resolved to the satisfaction of the applicant.

"Sometimes, we just refer walk-ins to the proper government office and call ahead to say that so-and-so is on his way and to help them," Galing said. "Sometimes we have to refer the problem in writing for a response."

Others put their problems directly to Aquino in her weekly radio broadcast, "Ask the President," which the government radio network carries every Sunday night.

The government's Philippine Information Agency solicits and screens the questions.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

Extra ferries to Failaka on holidays

KUWAIT, Feb. 28. (KUNA): The Kuwait Public Transport Company (KPTC) has prepared additional ferry schedules to the Failaka Island to meet the expected rush during the next Saturday and Sunday. A senior KPTC official said today.

Assistant Managing Director for Technical and Marine Affairs Bader Al Najjar said that the company's ferry boats cruising between Kuwait and Failaka had received an overwhelming number of passengers during the National Day celebrations.

He said passengers can now enjoy the company's services on leisure trips and added that newly launched vehicle ferry boats were especially equipped for transporting cars and luggage.

Social security scheme for expatriates

A SENIOR financial source announced today that the social security scheme for expatriates has been finalised.

The source was quoted as saying that the implementation of the scheme awaits a political decision from the state. The source did not say when the scheme will be studied by the government.

The source added that the Public Institution for Social Security has no intention of stopping or even amending the system allowing Kuwaitis covered by the institution to exchange part of their retirement salaries. The system allows these Kuwaitis to exchange part of their pensions for a direct cash payment.

According to the source, the institution has so far paid KD300 million to Kuwaitis using the benefit of this system.

Training for public sector

THE Deputy Director-General at Kuwait's Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Homoud Al Mudhaf, was quoted as saying that the government will adopt a major training course, designed to involve all government employees and officials irrespective of their positions.

In a speech delivered at the conclusion of a training course graduation ceremony organised by the authority on management behaviour, Mudhaf said that the training course focused on eliminating negative aspects of management, streamlining work flow and effectively enhancing productivity.

Bangladesh ambassador

BANGLADESH Ambassador K. M. Shehabuddin yesterday met the Undersecretary of Ministry of Health, Dr Nael Al Naqib and Director of Asia and Africa Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khadar. They discussed matters of mutual concern.

Jahra Week opened

SHEIKH Salem Sabah Al Naser Al Sabah, the Governor of Jahra opened the activities of the 8th Jahra Week at Kazma Intermediate School.

In his opening speech, he said that co-operation between citizens of Jahra and security personnel had significantly contributed to reducing the number of crimes in Jahra Governorate. A number of cultural seminars will be organised during the week. There is also a campaign to clean roads of Jahra Governorate and to green these roads and public squares.

Sheikh Salem distributed memorial shields and certificates of honour to personalities who organised the week's activities.

PACI data to benefit planning process: Shayji

AFTER successfully completing the Civil ID scheme, the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) has begun utilising comprehensive data from its data bank to benefit the planning process, according to Faisal Al Shayji, Director General of PACI.

The authority has prepared statistics related to population, workforce and economic activity with special emphasis on requirements of the developmental plan. These will be submitted to the Ministry of Planning within a week. PACI will periodically supply the Ministry of Planning with updates as such information is vital to any development plan, the official said.

Information

Additionally, PACI will supply necessary data to the Ministry of Education related to the number and distribution of students. Many more ministries and public establishments will be supplied with pertinent information essential to formulating their plans, Shayji said.

He added that PACI has begun preparing a new scheme designed to comprehensively determine all scientific expertise in the State of Kuwait. The system uses highly-automated techniques for easy recall of information, the official said.

Classification

PACI has also completed a classification guide for professionals in Kuwait. The new guide contains over 45,000 professions and is classified according to the International Classification of Professions.

The PACI office in the Ministries Complex is exclusively for



Faisal Al Shayji

processing the Civil IDs of Kuwaiti nationals, and a new branch will be opened on March 7 at the Kids' R Us building in Farwaniya. The new office will have 45 to 50 counters. Two more branches in Ahmadi and Jahra will be established soon. After the opening of the Farwaniya branch, the distribution of Civil IDs through co-operative societies will be stopped as the experiment was found to have defects, Al Shayji said.

Renewal

He further added that since Dec 17, 1988, PACI has issued over 300,000 Civil IDs, some of which were renewed. He said that people have appreciated the new size and shape of the Civil ID. He stressed that the new renewal applications of the IDs are now completed within a week only. He said that the Civil ID is accepted as an official document at all ministries, public establishments and even in the private sector. He warned people that failing to renew their expired IDs would make them subject to legal questioning.

Kuwait desires better ties with neighbours: Hamad

KUWAIT, Feb. 28. (KUNA): Kuwaiti Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad has stressed the country's desire for consolidating ties with neighbouring countries, Arab and Islamic nations.

The minister, in an interview with "Al Majalis" magazine appearing tomorrow, pointed out that Kuwait and its five associates in the Gulf Co-operation Council are bound by fraternal ties and a common destination.

As for Kuwaiti-Iraqi ties, the minister said these "are characterised by fraternity, destiny and is by no means less than our ties with the GCC."

Ties

Commenting on ties with Iran, Sheikh Jaber said, "We share a common religion, enjoy neighbourly ties, and have always sought to enhance our good links with her."

Sheikh Jaber said Kuwait is proud to be part of the Arab nation, and pledged Kuwait would do anything to consolidate Arab solidarity.

The minister pointed out that

Kuwait, current chairman of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), equally attaches special importance to its links with Islamic nations.

Answering a question, Sheikh Jaber said he believed the popular uprising would culminate in victory and the establishment of the independent state of Palestine on national soil.

Policy

Sheikh Jaber said domestic and foreign information are interlinked and should operate on the basis of a single and clear policy.

He said: "We should make our voice heard abroad and present a positive image of our country."

Commenting on press censorship, Sheikh Jaber stressed that government censors have never deleted any word beneficial to Kuwait, but only reports that are harmful to Kuwait, unity of its citizens or would damage Kuwait's ties with sisterly and friendly countries.

Turning to GCC information co-operation, Sheikh Jaber said external information is a mainstay of this collaboration.

Tarek Aziz in Morocco to deliver Saddam message

MARRAKESH, Feb. 28. (KUNA): Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Affairs Minister Tarek Aziz arrived here last night carrying a message from President Saddam Hussein to Moroccan monarch King Hassan II.

Upon his arrival, the Iraqi minister was quoted as saying that he has been dispatched by President Saddam. In his capacity as current chairman of the Arab Co-operation Council that groups Egypt, Jordan, North Yemen and Iraq, to deliver the ACC's wishes of establishing strong relations with the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) of which King Hassan is

currently the chairman. Aziz said that the message highly appreciates the supportive stances taken by King Hassan, his government and people during the Iraq-Iran conflict.

Early

The message concerns the establishment of the ACC, recent developments in the Arab and Gulf arenas and issues of mutual concern.

On his way to Morocco, Aziz stopped over in Egypt, and was quoted as saying to reporters that it was still too early to discuss participation of other Arab countries in the ACC since the executive committees of the council were not elected yet.

Cabinet reviews major political activities

Experts to probe further into December power failure: Rashed

KUWAIT, Feb. 28. (KUNA): The government today decided to set up a team of experts to probe further into the major electric power failure which occurred last December 13 in Kuwait City. State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed said.

The government reached the decision after the cabinet listened to a report by the Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Hmoud Al Rqobah on the causes of the blackout and its consequences, according to the government spokesman.

Report

The experts team proposed by the government would group specialists from the Kuwait University, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, the Engineers Society, the Fatwa Department and two experts from the private sector, he added.

The team is expected to report to the government within two months on how to prevent a recurrence of the power failure, and put forth guidelines for assessment of the existing power systems, Rashed said.

The cabinet also reviewed reports on major political

activities involving Kuwait and a number of domestic affairs, Rashed said.

The session, chaired by His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, first examined the contents of letters recently exchanged between HH the Amir and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, he said.

Talks

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's visit to Kuwait and the two rounds of talks he had in the past two days with HH the Amir were also discussed by the ministers, according to Rashed.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed reported to the regular cabinet meeting on the outcome of meetings here last week for an Arab League Committee trying to bring to an end the 14-year-old civil strife in Lebanon.

Efforts

Sheikh Sabah, who chairs the committee, said Lebanese spiritual leaders who assembled here last week for the meetings with the committee had shown genuine desire to end their country's plight.

The Kuwaiti council of mini-

sters expressed satisfaction with the reassuring results of the committee's talks and hoped the Arab League team would further succeed in its future efforts, the government spokesman said.

Sheikh Saad praised the great efforts of the National Day Celebration Committee which was headed by Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah.

Co-operation

Trade and Industry Minister Faisal Al Khaled reported to the meeting on the visit here last week by Economy Minister of the West German state of Hesse Alfred Schmidt and his co-operation talks with Kuwaiti officials.

Communications Minister Abdulla Al Sharhan briefed the cabinet of his recent trips to India and Singapore where he discussed co-operation between Kuwait and the two Asian countries in telecommunications and the exchange of expertise.

Higher Education Minister Ali Abdullah Al Shamlan outlined to the session the results of a recent visit here by the Maldives Education Minister, Mohammed Zaher Hussein, Rashed said.

Modern security systems to be installed at Kuwait's islands to control infiltrators

IN a bid to control infiltrators into Kuwait, modern security systems will be installed at Kuwait's islands, according to Brigadier Yousef Al Mishari, director-general of General Administration of Security Installations and Private Forces.

The administration co-operates with ministries and government establishments especially those involved with oil related industries to provide optimum security to these vital installations. The administration annually plans staff training in co-operation with the training department of the ministry, Police Academy, Kuwait Army and Navy.

Training

Officers are also sent abroad for advanced training, the official said.

The most serious problems of the private forces is the shortage in cadres, but the administration has begun implementing a plan to secure continuous supplies of

manpower. This problem will be solved in the near future, Mishari said.

Commenting on complaints against policemen at the airport and border centres, he said that relevant authorities take strict cognizance of such complaints. Doors of the Ministry of Interior are open to receive any complaints against irresponsible behaviour of security men, he added.

Rules

He further said, there are many citizens who do not co-operate with security men and do not abide by disciplinary instructions. These people follow the rules when they go to foreign countries but they refuse to abide by security instructions when they reach Kuwait.

They become irritated when they are asked to be inspected or subjected to body checks, he said.

Commenting on the confusion in names of people banned from

travelling, he said that a committee has been set up to solve this problem. It prepared full lists of banned persons and removed more than 7,000 names.

Security co-operation among the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states is an active and ongoing process. Many meetings were held to unify work of these authorities, Mishari said. He added that Kuwait has no intention to establish an institute. The institute for security studies in Saudi Arabia admits many citizens of the GCC who take specialised security courses and that includes officers from Kuwait. Kuwait also sends its men to Europe for similar training courses, he said.

The private forces of the Ministry of Interior have developed their capabilities to protect Kuwaiti aircraft after the hijacking of KAC's Al Jaberiya. Specially qualified security personnel are selected for this purpose, Mishari said.

5 films on boycott blacklist

KUWAIT, Feb. 28. (KUNA): The Israel Boycott Office in Kuwait issued here today a list of a number of blacklisted films and lifted a Turkish vessel from the blacklist.

These films were boycotted because they featured blacklisted actors or were produced by Paramount Pictures.

Following are the names of films to be banned in Kuwait: — Jack's Back, Pretty in Pink and A Breath of Scandal, the three are produced by the black-listed Paramount Pictures. — Father of the Bride, featuring Elizabeth Taylor. — Le Pige featuring Paul Newman.

Meanwhile, the office lifted from the blacklist, the Turkish ship Barbaros Oktay, after the ship changed its name to Singapore Star.

King Fahd tells Saudi civil servants to shape up

NICOSIA, Feb. 28. (Reuters): King Fahd prodded Saudi civil servants yesterday to improve efficiency and said office monitors would keep an eye on their performance.

"I am sure of the continuous effort that everyone exerts ... to achieve the best levels of administration in the public interest," the Saudi Press Agency quoted

King Fahd as saying. "But I look for more precision ... to bypass the obstacles of routine," he said.

The king said civil servants should finish their work more quickly and people would be appointed in all sections to speed up work flow. These monitors would present weekly reports, he said.

Computerised communications system contract signed

THE Ministry of Communication has signed a contract for the installation of a new communications system that will link Kuwait with the US, Europe and many other countries through computers, the ministry's Undersecretary Abdul Aziz Al Ayoub said yesterday.

He said the new network, expected to be ready by the end of this year, will provide its services to computer-users who at

present depend on the telephone network.

Concerning the national control project for the telephone network within the country, Ayoub said that although a tender was published for the project none of the offers received complied with the requirements. He added that the project is currently under study, and that a consultative body will decide on its future.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

Sixth Middle East Oil Show to open in Bahrain March 11

THE Sixth Middle East Oil Show, the biggest of its kind in the Arab world, will be 35 per cent bigger than the last one held two years ago, according to the organisers Arabian Exhibition Management (AEM).

Brendon Jennings, chief executive of AEM, said this year's event will be as big as the 1983 event in terms of the number of exhibitors and space occupied. This year 2,700 square metres will be occupied compared to 2,000 square metres in 1987. It means the show will equal the size of the 1983 exhibition when the oil industry in the Gulf was experiencing boom conditions, said Jennings.

In addition the ceasefire between Iran and Iraq, and the lower price of oil has given a major boost to the event this time, he added. More than 200 companies will be represented at the event, including the British contingent which has been the largest for six years. There will also be more American companies this time. Exhibitors will include three companies from Hungary and Romania, which will be taking part in the prestigious show.

All the major Gulf oil firms will be represented, including the biggest in the region, ARAMCO, which is sending more than 700 staff.

The biennial event, first held in 1978, is organised by the Society of Petroleum Engineers, which also runs the world's biggest oil show in Dallas, Texas.

A conference will take place during the exhibition when the keynote session will be chaired by Sheikh Al Mubarak, general manager of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company.

The Sixth Middle East Oil Show will be held between March 11-14 at the Exhibition Centre.

Rotary Club of Manama publishes new booklet on first aid

THE Rotary Club of Manama, in conjunction with the Health and Safety Society, has published a new booklet to educate the public on how to save lives.

The easy-to-follow guide with the help of illustrations shows life saving techniques including the administration of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation in case of accident.

The booklet shows the procedure to restore breathing quickly in case of such accidents as drowning, gas poisoning, electrocution, heart attack and suffocation.

According to Hussain Tadayon, president of the club, the idea to publish the booklet was formed in view of the death by drowning of several children in recent months and domestic accidents caused by electric shocks.

He said the booklet is part of the club's community service projects. About 3,000 copies of the guide has been published and will be distributed through the Civil Defence Directorate, schools, societies and companies.

Expatriates will not be allowed to fill vacant government posts

THE Civil Service Commission is working towards implementing the decision prohibiting the employment of non-Kuwaitis to vacant government posts, according to a senior government official.

Abdul Aziz Al Zaben, the Undersecretary of the Civil Service Commission, said that government jobs vacated by expatriates will not be filled by non-Kuwaitis except in technical jobs of urgent need.

The official admitted that there is a surplus of university graduates in some specialisa-

tions, but added that the government has employed a large number in various administrative posts. He called on Kuwait youth to specialise in technical fields.

Commenting on the Civil Service Council's recent decision to allow university and Applied Authority students to work in the ministries side by side with their studies, Zaben said that they will be appointed on an hourly basis. He added that they will be provided with jobs at the university and the authority whenever possible.

Centre for study of abnormal and premature babies established

A NUMBER of scientists and doctors from the Faculty of Medicine at Kuwait University have established a centre for research and study of abnormal and premature babies.

The centre is being supervised by Dr Ali Al Zohair, head of the Anatomy Department at the faculty, and Dr Badmanbin, professor of embryology at the university.

A local daily interviewed Badmanbin to explain the nature of the centre and its policies and future objectives.

He pointed out that embryos may suffer a wide range of physical or mental defects.

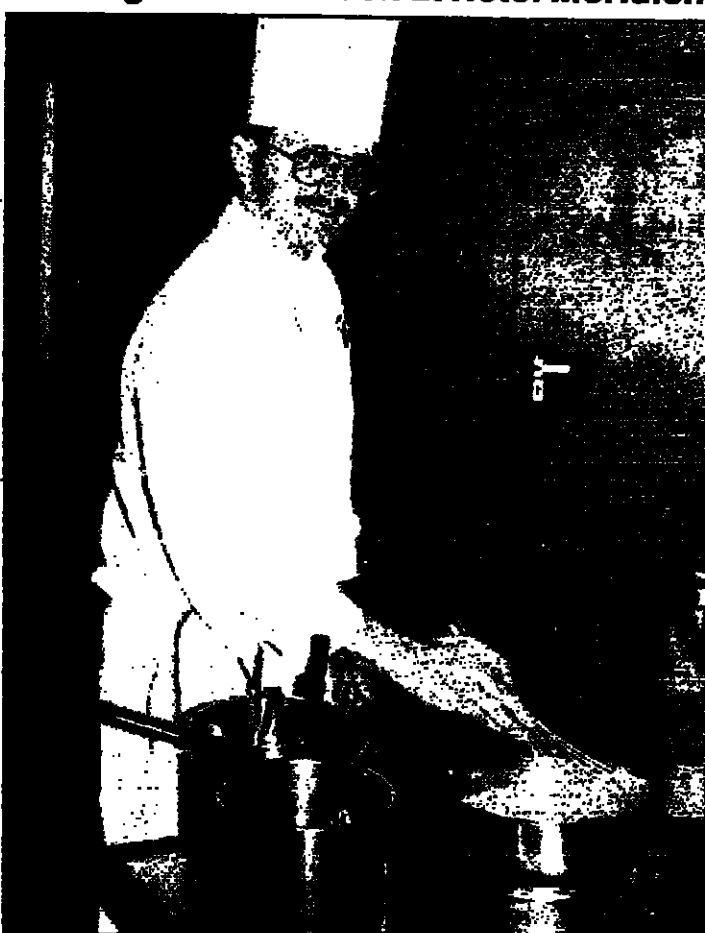
The study of abnormal embryos is a branch of science that deals with such cases, the nature of their development and preventive treatment, Badmanbin said.

Tests

Specialists at the centre conduct tests on all chemicals, food, cosmetics and other consumer articles, he added.

Kuwait's centre for abnormal babies and embryos is the only one of its kind in the Middle East area. Such centres are common in other advanced countries like Japan, Europe and America and have been under operation for a long time, the official said.

Cooking demonstration at Hotel Meridien



HOTEL Meridien Kuwait recently held a cooking demonstration for French ladies in Kuwait. Hotel Meridien's Executive Chef Cazez demonstrated the method of international food preparation being presented in all restaurants of the hotel.

Photo above shows Chef Cazez conducting the cooking demonstration.

Egyptian editors honoured

KUWAIT, Feb. 28. (KUNA): Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah today held a banquet honouring board chairmen and chief editors of Egyptian newspaper and magazines, who currently are visiting Kuwait at the invitation of the Information Ministry.

The banquet was attended by information assistant undersecretaries and the Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Saad Rifaat.

Drug pedlar arrested

SECURITY personnel of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) at the Capital Governorate arrested an Iraqi national on charges of trading in narcotics.

A search of the accused's residence unearthed a large sack containing heroin and hashish. The accused and the contraband have been referred to investigation authorities.

In another incident, the CID personnel at Ahmadi Governorate arrested three non-Kuwaitis (without nationality) accused of stealing cars.

The three accused have been identified as Talal, Ahmad and Salam.

The defendants, it is alleged, admitted to the charge and have been referred to the relevant authorities.

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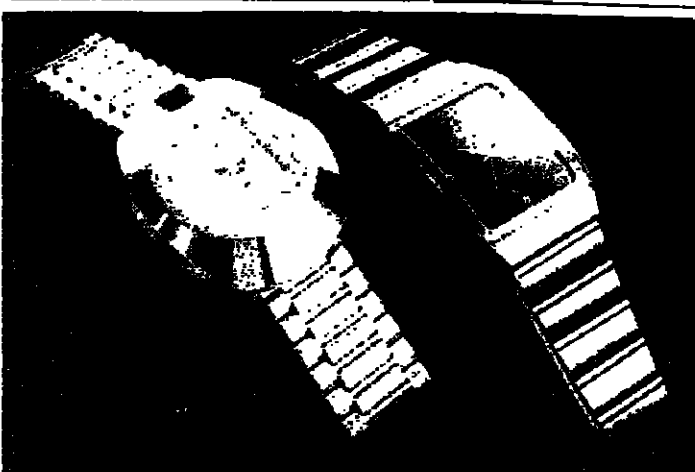
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EVENTS

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Ghadir Gallery
UNTIL March 19: Recent paintings by British water colour artist Patricia Mills will be shown at the Ghadir Gallery, Salsiya Complex, mezzanine, Gate 5, daily from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8.30 pm.

Sultan Gallery
AN exhibition of paintings by Bangladeshi artist Mounirul Islam is open at the gallery, Thanyan Al Ghanim Bldg., Al Noor St., daily except Friday from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 8 pm.

MUSIC

Red Army Choir
MARCH 4-5: The Red Army Choir and dance ensemble will perform at the Andalus Cinema, presenting music, dance and ballet with a selection of folk dances, Cossack and Armenian; plus choral singing. Tickets available at the Andalus Box-Office.

EXHIBITION

Higher Education in Britain
MARCH 11-15: The British Council presents an exhibition on British Higher Education. It will feature information on all aspects of higher education in Britain. A group of senior staff from Scottish universities will attend the exhibition. For details contact Education Advisor Kate Harries. Tel: 2520067.

SOCIAL

KAPILKU Night
MARCH 3: The KAPILKU Night at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Andalus Club, from 5 to 10 pm. A sing-alike contest and a singing competition will be held. Entrance: KD2. For details call Sarah Macarimbang. Tel: 484447.

Daniella Rally
MARCH 3 (Friday): Daniella, the Danish association in Kuwait, will hold the annual family car rally. For details call Karen-Marie - Tel: 3715146.

Gala Dinner
MARCH 9: The Great Ormond Street Hospital Gala Dinner will be held at 8 pm. For details call 4831339; 5393151.

KAPILKU Meeting
MARCH 3, 4 pm: The KAPILKU association in Kuwait, KAPILKU, will hold an officers' meeting at Holiday Inn Hotel.

German-Speaking Cultural Association
MARCH 5: Sunday, 10 am. The Association holds its regular monthly coffee morning at the Holiday Inn Hotel. All German-speaking ladies are welcome.

Contact
MARCH 11: The next meeting of the ladies information group will be held at 10 am at the Messilah Beach Hotel. Please note change of venue. For details call 3720197; 4874513; 5388105.

SPORTS

Marshals Meeting
MARCH 3: Marshals meeting at 5 pm in the KT Club to discuss 10th Kuwait International Rally. All newcomers welcome.

Danish Darts Tournament
MARCH 17: Daniella invites all Danes to take part in a darts tournament. It will be held from 4 pm at Gazette Club. Please register before March 8. Tel: Annette 3723413; Ingrid 3715637.

Kuwait Run
MARCH 3, (Friday): A team of eight runners will run from Abdali, the Iraqi border to Nuwaiseeb, the Saudi border. The 246 km run has been sponsored by the Messilah Beach Hotel and Arab Times. Come along and support the team. They will reach the Seif Palace at approximately 9 am and below the coast road to arrive at 11 am at the Messilah Beach Hotel. Fahadeel along the Expressway at 1 am and then go on to Nuwaiseeb.

Mini Rugby
MARCH 3: Training game commences on Friday at the Ahmadi ground; training starts at 10 am and mini-Rugby finishes at 11.30 am. For details call Hugh McAree 5326368 or Geoff Bennett 5332683.

Cricket Match with Veterans
MARCH 5: The Gulf Cricket League will hold a full-day cricket match for veterans at the LPI, Ardiya. Cricketers who played between 1950 and 1970 are eligible to participate. For registration and details call Saad Raza 392-8493.

Raft Race
THE third Kuwait Annual Raft Race will be held on May 26. Men, ladies, mixed and carnival events. This year's rules and regulations are available from the Messilah Beach Hotel.

VIDEO CORNER

Endearing good guys and imbecilic baddies

By Gail Seery

WE are helped into *Illegally Yours* by a voice over from the main character, explaining roughly what's supposed to be going on. This little piece of aid is much needed, despite its whimsical quality.

Howie Keeler, a shipping magnate, has recently moved to the small town of St Augustine, Florida, and one morning (23rd June to be precise) his daughter Suzy and her friend Cherin drive a blackmailer called Artie to a beach house owned by Donald and Ruth who work for Keeler. Just to complicate matters a little further, the trio are followed by two of Keeler's security men.

Artie goes into the house while the girls wait outside, and tries to blackmail Donald and Ruth — he pulls a gun which

Ruth grabs, and then she shoots him — only then they find that he has been taping the conversation, and they take the tape and fling it with a pile of others while they wrap the body in a rug and hide it in the boot of the car. Meanwhile, both Keeler's daughter and the two security men are trying to sneak into the house to grab the tape.

Then up drives Polly Gilbert, Donald's old girlfriend. She has come to collect her things, and storms around gathering up pictures and tapes, while Ruth, somewhat ineffectually tries to stop her. Finally Polly leaves, makes for her car, sees Donald drive away at high speed in his own car, and then Ruth drives her car at Polly, trying to knock her down so that she can snatch back the bag with the tape. Polly pulls a gun, fires at Ruth, and knocks down a mailman who had nothing to do with any

of the above action. All this happens before the title credits.

The film plummets onwards into further disarray with the arrival of Richard Dice as a juror on the court case six months later. Dice is a self-confessed incurable romantic, played by Rob Lowe. He promptly forgets his broken heart and falls head over heels in love with Polly — or actually, to be more precise, remembers that he has loved her for 19 years — since she was 11 and he was 6. He immediately assumes that she is innocent, and starts to follow her — and so stumbles on the rest of the implausible story.

The film does manage to continue at this pace throughout, as Dice unravels the mystery, aided and hindered by Keeler's daughter and her spaced out friend. It is an amusing film, but however well worked, well

presented and clever the story is, however endearing the good guys, and imbecilic the baddies, it never really grabs the viewer's whole attention. I found my thoughts wandering off continually, and it took quite a few sittings to brace myself to watch it until the climax. It's a pity that all the energy in the production had to go to waste.

The young cast are effective and there is some good work from Dice's family, particularly his mother, who has been married seven times, and produces dubious facial cosmetics, and from Dice's younger brother Andrew.

Even so, at the end, when the baddies are safely disposed of and Richard gets his girl, the viewer is left with a slightly sugary taste in the mouth and the one basic question, "So what?"

film is a thoroughly damning expose of bigotry and ignorance, and the plight of a totally innocent teenager.

The *Roots* series has fostered a new feature length continuation of the original series, *Roots — the Gift*, takes up the story of Kunta Kinte in 1770, three years after his unsuccessful attempt to escape from a slave plantation.

Midnight Caller is the pilot for a new American series about a cop who resigns when his partner is killed. He is approached by the owner of KJIM radio to become a late night talk show host, speaking to midnight callers about their fears and anxieties. Of course his new career fails to keep him behind the microphone for long, and he is soon off to try and help a disturbed young woman.

In the *Aftermath*, is billed as a horrifying vision of man's worst nightmare, and is another post-nuclear holocaust effort which mixes live action with animation.

There are some New Adventures of the *Care Bears* for the very young, and *Death to the Daleks* for older children. The above films are by courtesy of VFI, Fintas/Farwaniya; Video Nauf, Salsiya, and Video Club, Salsiya.

● All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

Modern Cinderella in high risk deal

WHEN a film has been nominated for multiple Oscar awards (Best Film, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress etc.), it is hard not to view it with great expectations. And of course one is usually disappointed to a certain degree, as the publicity and hype surrounding the Oscar awards lead us to expect a plethora of masterpieces.

Working Girl has two high priced stars, Sigourney Weaver and Harrison Ford, in supporting roles to a relative newcomer, Melanie Griffith. The story is essentially a flimsy to *The Secret of My Success*, a supposedly plausible story of how a secretary comes to the fore when her boss (Sigourney Weaver) is immobilised by a skiing accident. After finding that her superior has stolen her ideas, Griffith takes over Weaver's office, apartment and finally her boyfriend (Ford), who helps her put the high risk deal together. By the time Weaver recovers, her understudy has stolen the spotlight and become the star.

Weaver plays the executive bitch very well and Ford displays a flare for comedy unseen in his other films. But what to say about Best Actress nominee Griffith? Her accent and looks make the whole film totally implausible in my view, and only the interaction of the other major stars keeps the plot together. That said, director Mike Nichols has milked the *Cinderella* formula for what he can get, and has fashioned an entertaining but lightweight film which is sure to be a major

box office success. The highlight of the film is surely the ending where newly appointed vice-president Griffith is asked by her new secretary what is expected of her. "I expect you call me Tess, and I don't expect you to make coffee for me," she grandly replies, surveying the Hudson from her 40th storey office.

Did you know that Phil Collins is only a little fellow? I was surprised to see how small he really was standing beside his co-stars in *Buster*, the story of great train robber Buster Edwards. The facts of the story are now folklore. On an afternoon in November 1963, Edwards and a gang of mainly petty thieves, stop and rob a mail train of two and a half million pounds sterling, up to then the biggest heist of all time. Until this much publicised moment, Buster had barely scratched along keeping his beloved wife and child one step ahead of the rentman by pulling off the odd small job.

After the discovery of the fingerprints at the farm where the gang had laid low, Edwards goes into hiding, and watches a number of his accomplices sentenced to exemplary jail sentences of up to 30 years. With the police about to swoop, he flees with his family to Mexico, where they join fellow robber Bruce Reynolds and wife. It's not long before his wife June becomes terminally homesick

and flies home after a row with Buster. Running short of cash and realising that his wife and child are more important than freedom itself, he follows her.

Phil Collins has an irrepressible chirpy charm, and his many fans will rush to rent this one, especially as the sound track contains three new songs. However, apart from some historic interest, the film is little more than a thoroughly routine comedy thriller, which fails to answer the basic questions of how such a small time thief could ever get involved in anything so big, or how such a bungling gang could achieve such a spectacular heist. If you want more on the great train robbery, the story of another robber, Ronnie Biggs, who 'emigrated' to South America, is available as *Prisoner of Rio*, or possibly you could ask Edwards himself as he now runs a newspaper stand outside Waterloo Station.

The *Ryan White Story* should be compulsory viewing as the first serious film to deal with the consequences of AIDS. This is the true story of a 13-year-old American boy who contracted AIDS from a blood transfusion, and wanted nothing more than to live the rest of his life without hassle. However, the opposite is true — the school parents ban him from attending class and the hospital fights his parents' claim for damages. The whole

Chaine dinner at Carnival in Venice



The new members of Chaine des Rotisseurs seen with Robert Baty.

"CARNIVAL in Venice" was the theme of the recent Chaine des Rotisseurs dinner hosted by the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel. This was the first time a theme was chosen.

The hotel's ballroom was decorated in the style of Venice during the carnival, depicting landmarks and musicians of that city. The staff members and hotel musicians completed the ambience with their colourful costumes typical of the carnival season. The eight-course menu reflected the theme.

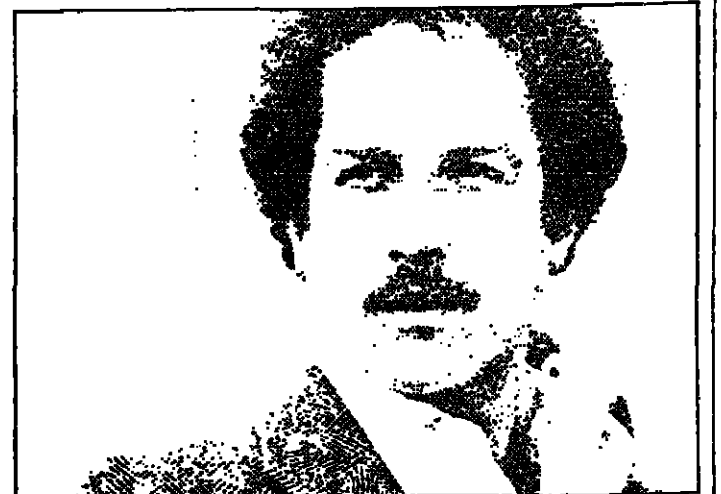
Robert Baty, grand argentier and vice-president of the Chaine, came to Kuwait for the inauguration of the 13 members to the group.

The guest of honour was Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr Bernd Wulffen and his wife. Mr and Mrs Rida Al Feil and the Canadian and Greek ambassadors also attended.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

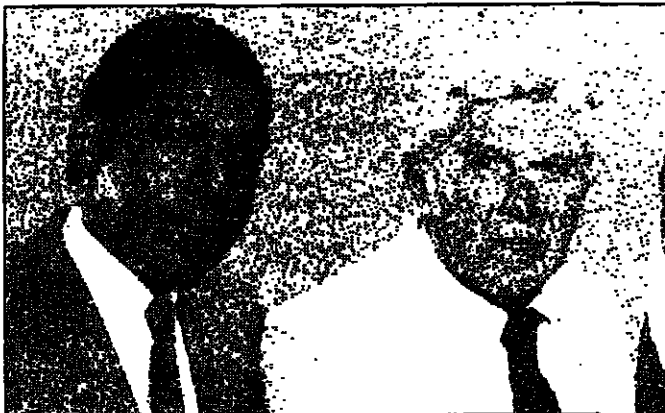
- 4.00 Holy Quran
- 4.15 World News via Satellite
- 4.45 Cartoon Serial
- 5.15 Thousand and One Nights
- 5.45 Ibn Attiya: historical serial starring Majed Afouni, Shafiq Hassan, Marcel Marina and cartoons will also be shown.
- 6.15 With Students
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.30 Housing and Citizens: local programme
- 8.00 Al Taqaddum Al Ilmi: Scientific Advancement
- 8.30 Good Evening
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Al Baharsat Al Marrah: Arabic serial, starring Hassan Abideen, Ahmad Maher, Muna Jabar, Fatima Tabac, Mohammad Rida and Anwar Ismael.
- 10.50 Aghniyah Fi Al Tamaniyah: a variety show featuring Suzan Attiya.
- 12.30 News Summary
- 12.35 World News via Satellite/Holy Quran/Closedown



Richard Dreyfuss stars in 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' 10.30 pm, KTV 2.

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Transformers: cartoon serial
- 6.30 Prestige: "My Mother Was Never a Kid." The story of a girl who comes to terms with her mother's behaviour towards her.
- 7.25 Mutual of Omaha: "The New Zealand Deer Life." Part One.
- 7.50 You and the Law
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.55 Matlock: "The Court Martial." Matlock defends a soldier. Starring Andy Griffiths.
- 9.40 Hooperman
- 10.10 People do the Craziest Things
- 10.30 Feature film: "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." (1977) Starring: Richard Dreyfuss, Francois Truffaut, Melinda Dillon, Teri Garr. Sci-fi fantasy about friendly aliens touching base with specially selected earthlings. Suspense and humour blend as Dreyfuss and others disobey orders and try to rendezvous with the extra-terrestrials. Director: Steven Spielberg.
- 12.35 News Summary/followed by Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown



Matlock, 8.55 pm, KTV 2.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Ghanim Pharmacy
Nr. Carlton Hotel, Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Mojil Pharmacy
Mojil Bldg., Abdullah Al Mubarak St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Hina Pharmacy
Nagra Complex, Beirut St.
Salsiya and Rumsithiya
Al Dana Pharmacy
Shua Al Sabah Bldg., Amman St.
Fahadeel and Ahmadi
Al Badiya Pharmacy
Dabbous St. Fahadeel Farwaniya
Al Ta'awon Pharmacy
Jara Comm. Centre (3), Main St.
Jahra
Al Khalid Pharmacy
Opp. Co-operative Society

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Gharum Al Afayi (Arabic)
Starring: Laila Alwi, Sabirin, Salah Qabil, Hisham Abdul Hamid
Al Salmiya
Closed
Al Hanaa
Cherry 2000
Starring: Melanie Griffith, David Andrews
Drive-In
Mo'arakah Al Nakib Nadiya (Arabic)
Starring: Suhair Sabri, Karam Mutawa
Al Firdous
Shoorveer (Hindi)
Starring: Rajan Sippy, Mandakani
Granada
Youn Mirr Youn Helu (Arabic)

Fahadeel Open-air
Pyar Kiye Jaa (Hindi)
Al Fahadeel
Ayyam Al Ro'ob (Arabic)
Al Jahra
Hysterical
Salabikhat
Killing Machine
Al Jleeb
Twinkle Twinkle Lucky Star (2)
Ahmadi Drive-in
Bint Min Dahab (Arabic)

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.54 am
Zuhr	12.00 noon
Asr	3.19 pm
Maghreb	5.48
Isha	7.05

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

ONE cannot know everything — Horace, Roman poet-satirist (68BC-8BC)

Scandals rock S. African regime

By David Crary

JOHANNESBURG. (AP): Laughter sounded from opposition seats when the acting head of state opened the current session of parliament by proclaiming the government's commitment to clean administration.

The speech by Chris Heunis, substituting for ailing President P.W. Botha, came a week after three members of the governing National Party quit parliament because of links to unrelated scandals.

In the ensuing three weeks, one of those men has gone to prison for electoral fraud, and a former member of Botha's cabinet was described by an inquiry commission as unfit to hold any office. Last week, 10 white officials involved in black education and development were suspended for alleged financial misconduct, and the cabinet minister who oversees them was criticised for incompetence.

A separate, ongoing inquiry is examining suspected foreign exchange violations by Albert Vermaas, a Pretoria businessman who entertained senior government officials at his home and private game farm. On Friday, the government said Vermaas' passport has been withdrawn.

Condemn

Opposition parties on the right and left have condemned Botha's administration for failing to prevent corruption at a time when many South Africans are hard hit by inflation and high taxes. Even the state radio has called for tougher anti-corruption measures.

"The simultaneous emergence of irregular practices in different areas has created a grossly distorted impression of rampant corruption," the South African Broadcasting Corp. said in a commentary on Wednesday. "However, the underlying reality remains that too many serious shortcomings have been shown to exist."

The government does not deny corruption exists, but Heunis and other officials say steps are being taken to combat it.

"Effective government has to be supported by clean administration," Heunis said in his speech to parliament. "The fact that this is not always achieved by everybody in the public and private sectors in no way detracts from the government's sincere commitment. This is substantiated by the government's strong initiatives and action in this regard, irrespective of those involved."

Afghan rebels make a major move

By Michael Battye

ISLAMABAD. (Reuters): Despite the bitter feuding and rampant disunity among Afghan mujahadeen rebels that preceded it, the creation of a government-in-exile should be a major step in their bid for power, Western diplomats said.

It took nearly two weeks of flare-ups and walkouts that depressed even the most ardent Western supporters of the mujahadeen before a consultative council, or shura, finally elected the government last week.

Eight Iran-based groups, nominally representing two million Afghan refugees, went home because they were given insufficient votes, leaving the job to seven bigger groups based in Pakistan.

Their departure left serious questions over how much support from Afghans the government-in-exile would get if it took power from the still defiant government of President Najibullah in Kabul.

Represent

Even Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, the moderate finally elected president under a compromise party-based vote, admitted the shura at best represented one-third of the Afghan population. Most of the 440 shura delegates seemed happy at the outcome, although there were dissenting voices.

"All they have done is set up another puppet government," said one moderate who from the beginning had argued that the shura was insufficiently representative to be taken seriously.

Western diplomats, while acknowledging it was not a perfect

The "strong initiatives" presumably include the appointment of judicial inquiry commissions which have probed several of the scandals.

Zach de Beer, leader of the anti-apartheid Progressive Federal Party, said the prevalence of corruption stems from the complex bureaucratic structures of apartheid and the government's penchant for secrecy.

He said much of the corruption has been connected to the four nominally independent black homelands, where impoverished residents have been governed by authoritarian, South African-backed leaders. "From the beginning, the non-availability of these areas had to be dealt with by the payment of large subsidies," De Beer said. "But, because of their alleged independence, no proper control could be exercised over this hand-out of money."

Government critics claim another major factor behind the corruption is the official encouragement of clandestine business dealings as part of the nationwide effort to circumvent economic sanctions imposed on South Africa.

Brian Pottinger, in a new book about Botha's first decade in power (1978-88), writes that government officials have grown increasingly accustomed to lavish fringe benefits. He said taxpayers in 1988 paid twice as much to finance perks for bureaucrats than the government spent on education for the black majority.

The perks, which Pottinger estimates totalled \$1.3 billion, included bonuses, housing allowances, medical aid plans, pensions and use of departmental cars.

The three parliament members who resigned during the last week in January were:

- Manpower Minister Pietie du Plessis, who quit amid an investigation into property transactions involving his department that may have benefited his son. Despite leaving under a cloud, he is due to receive a one-time \$100,000 "golden handshake" and a \$50,000 annual pension.
- Leon de Beer, who last week began a two-year prison term for engaging in electoral fraud in his 1987 campaign in Johannesburg's Hillbrow District.
- Peet de Pontes, a central figure in an investigation of fraud, corruption and perjury in connection with efforts to smuggle a convicted mafia drug financier from Italy into the black homeland of Ciskei.

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Lebanese Central Bank governor is virtually a prisoner

Holding purse-strings of two governments is difficult

By Mohammed Salam

BEIRUT. (AP): Central Bank Governor Edmond Naim holds the purse-strings of Lebanon's rival Christian and Muslim governments, but such responsibility carries a price.

Naim is a virtual prisoner in the bank, where he has lived for 19 months for his own safety. Naim is a Maronite Catholic; the bank is in Muslim west Beirut.

The bank is the only government institution that remains intact in Lebanon's five-month-old political crisis, which has split the government, the Army and every other department down the middle.

This has given the 70-year-old Naim unprecedented powers. He said he bankrolls "the basic needs" of both competing governments, including food and fuel imports, to prevent a complete collapse of Lebanon's fractured public services.

But Naim threatened to resign

on Friday to protest a reported attempt by the head of the nation's Christian cabinet to prosecute him for misuse of power. Two of his four deputies also threatened to quit.

Strike
The bank's estimated 750 employees declared a 24-hour strike in Beirut and other cities to protest orders from Gen. Michel Aoun to prosecute Naim. They threatened to extend the strike indefinitely unless the charges against Naim were dropped.

"I don't know why they want to prosecute me. I'm ready to submit my resignation," Naim said.

Lebanon's official radio said among the charges Naim faces were "misuse of authority, mismanagement and failure to control management in certain financial institutions."

However, Beirut's leftist As-Safir daily has described the Central Bank under Naim as "a small republic" and noted that it has been unable to "protect people's property and preserve Lebanon's unity."

"Naim's the only official in this country behaving like father to all the Lebanese," said Adnan Badra, a Sunni businessman in west Beirut.

Although the economy has been devastated by nearly 14 years of civil war, the Central Bank has gold reserves estimated at about \$5 billion, with \$800 million in foreign currency.

Income
The bank's cash flow depends on whatever income tax, excise and customs duties the two governments collect. Other sources of income include revenue from government-owned properties, trade in foreign exchange and deposits by commercial banks.

"The Central Bank finances the whole of Lebanon according to a formula of equality and in line with the population and area each of the government rules," Naim said.

The Central Bank also sets interest rates and provides banks with local currency.

In June 1987, when Prime Minister Rashid Karami was assassinated, Naim moved into the bank headquarters. He hasn't left since then.

"It's more practical to live in the bank," he said in a recent interview in his plush sixth-floor office. "The streets aren't safe."

An aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity, noted: "The governor was advised not to leave the bank at all for personal safety considerations. In a country like Lebanon, violence has no limits."

So Naim now lives in a specially built two-room apartment on the roof of the seven-story bank building, which is guarded by 50 armed policemen. "I cook, wash my dishes, do my laundry and tend my plants there," Naim said.

Travel

His wife, a naturalized American of German descent, travels from the family home in Christian east Beirut across the capital's dividing Green Line "every two weeks for a weekend

with me at the bank," Naim said. The current political crisis began last September, when President Amin Gemayel's six-year term expired with no successor elected because of sectarian bickering.

Gemayel named Aoun, his Maronite Army commander, to head a caretaker military cabinet until a new president was elected. Muslim and leftist factions refused to recognise Aoun and backed acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss, a Sunni Muslim who headed the government under Gemayel after Karami was assassinated.

That left Naim in the middle, and he has managed so far to stay in the eye of the political hurricane. The lawyer and former university dean, who was brought out of retirement in 1983 to run the bank, also has shown he will not be bullied.

Aoun has sought to impose his Christian government's authority on the Central Bank. Last December, he closed the only crossing point between east and

west Beirut for 10 days after Naim allocated funds to Muslim Army units under his military rival, Maj. Gen. Sami Khattib.

Import

Naim responded by providing the equivalent of \$1 million to Hoss' government to import flour because Aoun's blockade choked off supplies from the main warehouses in Christian east Beirut.

Naim has also had to contend with Lebanon's most serious banking crisis in more than 20 years.

The Al Mashrek Bank went under last December because of a run by depositors panicked by reports it was overextended through hefty investments.

The Central Bank stepped in and underwrote claims by non-institutional depositors.

"By law, we were not obliged to do what we did," Naim said. "It's not our duty... to aid banks in trouble. But we intervened, not just to help Al Mashrek, but to protect the banking sector and Lebanon's society."



Hopes dashed as refugees are detained

By Scott McCartney

BROWNSVILLE, Texas. (AP): Lesbia Roque and her three children hitch-hiked from Nicaragua, carrying with them nothing but hunger and hope.

At the end of the three-month odyssey, launched by a military summons for her 12-year-old son, the family waded across the Rio Grande and asked for asylum at a rural barbed-wire-encircled government compound.

Instead, they were rejected, then arrested.

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Soviets seek impartial role in Middle East peace process

By Nicolas B. Tatro

CAIRO. (AP): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, taking a page from US diplomacy, sought this week to establish the Soviet Union as an impartial broker between Arabs and Israelis.

In doing so, Shevardnadze abandoned the tough anti-Israeli rhetoric that was the hallmark of past Kremlin diplomacy in the region and won the endorsement of Jordan and Egypt, Arab moderates traditionally close to Washington.

The Soviet initiative posed a direct challenge to the new administration of US President George Bush, who denied he was being outflanked by Moscow's new approach.

Bush countered the Soviet moves by meeting in Tokyo, during Emperor Hirohito's funeral, with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Israeli President Chaim Herzog and Jordan's King Hussein.

US Secretary of State James Baker suggested the Soviets were engaged in "rhetorical exercises." He said there were "some opportunities" to be explored, but the United States was not prepared to undertake new initiatives yet.

Dialogue
What lent credibility to Shevardnadze's efforts was his ability to establish an indirect dialogue between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the most intractable Middle East adversaries.

He managed to seat PLO chief Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens on the same couch on the same day for lengthy but separate talks at the Nile-side Soviet embassy. Both agreed the Soviets could be useful intermediaries.

Afterwards, Arens announced that a series of talks had been

arranged to pursue peace prospects. He said the Soviets had a role to play in influencing radical Arab states, which has opposed a negotiated settlement.

Arafat declared that indirect negotiations already had begun with Shevardnadze briefing Arafat on his talks with Arens and planning to report back to the Israelis on the PLO's positions.

Shevardnadze nonetheless has embarked on a high-risk policy. He stalked Soviet prestige on his new effort, and its failure could signal an inability to deliver.

Regain
The choice of Cairo as the focus for the new initiative appeared calculated to show the Soviets had regained their position in the Middle East and could play once again on a field that has been exclusively American for the past decade.

It was here that the United States achieved its greatest Middle East success, the 1979 Israel-Egypt peace treaty, and the Soviets suffered their greatest setback — expulsion of 21,000 Soviet advisers in July 1972 and the loss of the largest Arab state as an ally.

Shevardnadze, echoing Ronald Reagan's "trust but verify" proposal for arms reduction, offered Moscow's guarantees to underpin an eventual peace settlement, including a new idea for on-site inspections to prevent military buildups.

"We see no reason why the parties to a future Arab-Israeli settlement could not engage in mutual inspections and on-site monitoring, including short notice suspect-site inspections," he said.

Shevardnadze, saying he was engaged in "an act of creative work," signalled that spontaneity and imagination would be central to the Soviet approach — a major change from the often

ponderous and inflexible diplomacy of the pre-Gorbachev era.

Underlining the point, Shevardnadze let himself be buttonholed on doorsteps by reporters and seemed to enjoy the reprieve of such informal encounters.

Humility
In all his public statements, Shevardnadze's rhetoric was striking for its absence of verbal poison. There were even touches of humility.

In a speech to Egyptian politicians, for example, he argued that the Middle East was headed for war if peace talks could not be arranged and added:

"All this is not being said in order to give moral lessons. We are, one might say, speaking from experience, knowing what are the results of confrontation, dogmatic thinking and unduly ideologizing international relations."

His warnings to Israel were veiled, but the message was clear and unchanged even from pre-glasnost policy: "it was imperative" that Israel "accept dialogue with the PLO and agree to the Soviet proposal for an international conference."

He said Israel would be isolated if it refused and hinted that economic sanctions could result from obstinance.

Complications
"Unless such an approach is taken, complications may arise in relations between the Middle East and most of the rest of the world," he said.

Despite the promise of another Arens-Shevardnadze meeting, one major question that threatened the Soviet pursuit of the Middle East matchmaker role was whether Israel would continue to answer Soviet summons.

Clash of ideas swells in Eastern Europe

By Eric Bourne

VIENNA: Eastern Europe is moving rapidly — albeit unevenly — into an ideological ferment already transcending the Yugoslav schism of 1948.

The Titoists' break from the Soviet bloc was a bombshell for Stalin, but it embraced only Yugoslavia. The other East Europeans ganged up on the Titoists with an intransigently Stalinist platform.

When Milovan Djilas, who was then Tito's closest associate, demanded an open "clash of ideas" at a famous Yugoslav congress in 1952, even Tito, however, balked at over-radical challenges to communist authority.

Today, in Hungary and Poland, the "clash of ideas" swells in an ever-widening public debate — communist parties willing or not. Hungary's parliament has just set a new precedent by passing two laws enshrining the "inalienable rights" of independent political association. This could open the door to Western-style elections and a multiparty system.

Divided
In Czechoslovakia, there are stirrings as stubbornly conservative leaders begin to bend under pressures of perestroika (restructuring) and glasnost (openness). In Bulgaria, 120 academics and other intellectuals — some of them communists — have confronted the leadership in a discussion group supporting Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms.

Yugoslavia is now too divided and debate too soured by ethnic conflict to be able to present a coherent example for the reform now spreading through the East bloc. It is Hungary which is setting the pace. Controversy has had prime-time coverage: the

newspapers make exciting reading. In the first week of 1989, they reflected a rich crop of "alternative" opinions. Among these were the ideas of social democracy along Spanish, Swedish, and Austrian lines.

The Hungarian Communist Party seems increasingly forced onto the defensive to preserve some of its "leading" role and at least a "socialist" (communist) basis for the nation's future course.

The old rubber-stamp parliament has become a lively, assertive forum. Members of parliament — their speeches well covered by the media — make no bones about getting into highly sensitive areas (unlike cutting defence spending) absolutely closed to public debate until now.

And a "socialist" basis? The term becomes ever more flexible, more elastic. Karoly Grosz, Hungary's pragmatic and dynamic party leader, has moved away from his initial defense of a one-party system "democratized" within itself. "If people at large see the (democratic) guarantee not in one party but in more parties, we have nothing against it," he said recently.

If we want constitutional statehood we cannot refuse it."

Modify
Poland is radically modifying its economic system by opening doors to private enterprise and Western investment. It still has to catch up with Hungary in conceding specific political reforms as essential if economic reform is to work.

The Poles are more apprehensive than the Hungarians, it

seems, that political pluralism (as Tito told Djilas all those years ago) can change "too much, too fast." Reducing the party's monopoly is one thing, but eliminating its self-assumed special role and bringing in competitors is quite something else.

In the Soviet Union, Gorbachev, like the Hungarian leadership, is being bombarded with fresh demands. Soviet, Hungarian, and Polish reformers, as well as others in the East bloc, are all trying to push the boundaries further.

But everywhere, orthodox ideologists are working to slow down and dilute change. It is fear of that change that prompts the more progressive reformers to urge the "alternatives" not to be too provocatively "ideological," not to demand "too much, too soon."

Problems
The conservative are aided by the economic problems their countries face. Endemic in the large debts carried by Poland, Yugoslavia, and Hungary is a dangerous socio-political issue. Economic reform means even more austerity for most of their people. In each of these countries, it is said: "People have reached their limit."

Some Western politicians have talked of another Marshall Plan to salvage Eastern Europe. Communist leaders balk at talk of "aid" but do not reject the general idea. Most see the exclusion of Eastern Europe from the initial Marshall Plan as a calamitous mistake. Still, the West largely inclines to make help for Eastern

Most of my critics are men who haven't read my books

Sheer truth or Shere hype?

POPULARLY known as "Sheer Hype" or "Shere Hate", the American "sex expert" and researcher Shere Hite, is promoting the paper back of her latest book.

Women and Love: a Cultural Revolution in Progress has been a controversial figure ever since the publication of her first "report" on female sexuality in 1976.

That massive work, consisting of interviews with 3,000 American women, became a cornerstone in the women's movement with its sensational conclusions.

Women and Love is the third, and possibly last, volume of the Hite Report. It has been widely denounced.

A millionaire with an opulent Manhattan apartment, a love of couture clothes and a husband 20 years her junior, Shere Hite is half icon and half Aunt Sally of the feminist movement.

A phenomenon of the media craze for statistics, however dubiously obtained, she confounds most interviewers by being flamboyantly feminine.

A bewitched tabloid Press in the UK was straining every nerve to make her appear a strident and insensitive harpy. One newspaper claimed she was embarrassing guests and a waiter at an hotel with her unblushing discussions of sexual organs.

In fact, her manner is painfully polite, and the staff were quite clearly charmed by her. Dressed in a black layered suit by Norma Kamali, she looks more like a pre-Raphaelite siren encased in crustacean armour.

"I'm sure there are lots of things wrong with me, but most of my critics are men who haven't read my books and haven't met me," she says. "They have an image of me, an inner stereotype. Any woman in a position of authority gets the hatred aimed towards the mother. Look at Mrs Thatcher."

Evidence

Her own mother was not much in evidence for most of Hite's childhood. Born in Oklahoma in 1942, she is the eldest child of parents who married in high school before her father went off to war. Her mother, a peripatetic painter, left the young Shirley Gregory (Hite is a pseudonym) with her grandparents, whom she adored. By the time her father

Shere Hite, author of the Hite 'report' on female sexuality, is no strident and insensitive harpy, says Amanda Craig, who interviewed the controversial lady whose methods and conclusions have been widely denounced.



Shere Hite: flamboyantly feminine

returned, she had, as she put it, "bonded with them", and was left behind when her brother and sister left.

"I never felt the lack of my father, whom I hardly knew, because my grandfather and I were so close. Once, he asked me very shyly if I would like to call him 'father'. I loved the idea, but I was too shy myself to say so. Now he's dead, and of all the things I wish I'd done differently in my life, I wish I'd changed that. They were poor people, but they sent me all the way through school. I was the first person in my family to go to college."

She wanted to be a composer, and studied music for 20 years, but knew she would never earn a living as one, "because there aren't any women composers". History, her second love, took

her to the University of Florida, and then to an MA course at Columbia. It was here that she felt the first stirrings of anger towards men.

Modelling

"There were no women professors, and hardly any women students. My work and questions were ignored, and I was excluded from discussions." Worse, Jacques Barzun, the historian whom she admired, refused to believe she had written her master's thesis herself, on the grounds that books referred to were not available at the Florida library. She had used an inter-library loan.

Shere Hite left Columbia after a couple of terms, but stayed in New York and made a living modelling, which she describes as

"a poor girl's finishing school." One job included posing for an Olivetti campaign with the slogan "The typewriter that's so smart she doesn't have to be."

Feminists picketed the Olivetti offices. She made a dramatic entrance, into the women's movement by joining them. They came the first Hite Report.

Those who have worked with her, like Clare Alexander, her English editor, both like and admire her. "She is portrayed as a mad woman, but really she is very beautiful and unusual and has a marvellous sense of humour."

The frankness with which her correspondents replied on sexual matters is startling, and has made her a focus for considerable distaste. The Hite Report has been an instant bestseller.

But a more scholarly author in the same field, Jonathan Gathorne Hardy, author of *Love, Sex, Marriage and Divorce* says: "You don't require vast case histories to make your point. I think part of her aim is to make money by pornographic literature. She has 46 pages on masturbation and about six on sex, which is a bit of a giveaway."

"It's very anti-male with a lot of absurd arguments and derogatory descriptions of male intercourse. But despite that, it isn't entirely worthless, because it did reveal that women had a much wider range of responses to sex than previously thought."

Women and Love had an even larger sample: 4,500. Their moans about men are turned into statistics, such as "Seventy-four per cent of women say men don't put love first", and "96 per cent of women say they are giving more emotional support than they are getting."

Shere Hite defends these generalisations from a particular sample by saying that her sample "is, after all, 4,497 more of a sample than Freud had when he made his grandiose theories." She is also blissfully unaware of the fact that the female equivalent of a Masonic handshake is to complain about men, even if they love them.

Behaviour

Much of the masculine behaviour described is, to a normal reader, plain bad manners rather than deliberate malice. Hite agrees, but claims that "men feel more comfortable having bad manners because women can't do anything back. Men can be polite to women at work, but not to the women they love. Which message is the real message?"

She is not, she says, a man-hater, though she dislikes the male ideology, or what men think of as the "masculine way of life," or the belief that men are superior. "I don't have anything against them liking each other's company, or football—stuff like that."

But I can't imagine how they can go on thinking of themselves as great and noble when women aren't getting equal pay, and the majority of people living in poverty in the States are not black, as Jesse Jackson claimed, but women.

She struck me as a disillusioned idealist, not a virago. She is unmistakably in love with her husband of four years, a German concert pianist, Friedrich Horricke. They liked the idea of children, though it is probably too late.

Women and Love, underneath all the complaints and sociobiological guff, does ask some important questions about the relations between men and women, even if it fails to see the value in the male perspective on life. The joy of men's company is that their interests are centripetal, not centrifugal.

What is sad is that, in America at least, the spirit of chivalry appears to have almost vanished. It is debatable where the blame lies for this. Nagging and moaning will not bring it back, but if Hite can at least make her patriots aware of this lack, then she will have performed a genuine cultural revolution.

Dressing down for Iranian women

By Patrick Tyler

THE woman refused to sit down. Dressed in a black chador and sunglasses to emphasize her militant modesty, she stood among 400 other women at the Second International Women's Congress in Tehran recently and lectured Ali Akbar Rafsanjani, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament.

"Mr Rafsanjani," she said, "I take it you have not been in the streets of Tehran, because if you had, you would see for yourself how bad the situation is."

She was not complaining about poverty, shortages, food rationing, or the city's mammoth traffic jams. Instead, she was angry that too many women are now not adequately observing the *hejab*, the Islamic code for covering women.

In the past six months, thousands of women, particularly in the once-fashionable zone of North Tehran, have replaced the ubiquitous black scarves and full-length chadors with brilliantly coloured scarves that show at least a tuft of the stylish perms underneath.

Elegant evening gowns and designer dresses with plunging necklines now fill the windows of North Tehran's boutiques, testifying that high fashion for women still exists "underground"—displayed at private parties behind the high walls of the wealthy merchant and intellectual classes. On the campus of Tehran's University, trousers are back and some women are even showing a little ankle.

Values

"The values of the revolution have lost their lustre," the woman in black shouted at Rafsanjani, who asked her to sit down and pass her question forward on a piece of paper. "I want to clear up this situation," she said. "That's why I'm talking to you."

"You cannot clear it up like this," Rafsanjani said firmly. Security men made their way towards the woman and a voice in the crowd invoked the name of the Prophet (PBUH)—restoring order in the room by setting off a calming chant.

Fed up with the half-a-grape-fruit-and-three-Mars-bars existence of so many people, a group of women in London are fighting back. On March 18, they will hold the First National Fat Women's Conference to celebrate being fat and to highlight the latent prejudices in society.

By Sue Tedders

MY SISTER and I have always been fat. Or rather, we've been fat and then a bit more fat again. But while I'm still quietly coming to terms with which size "me" is me, Ruth has made a decision about her body.

She is a member of the London Fat Women's Group, a collective of feminists who have put an end to the half-a-grape-fruit-and-three-Mars-bars existence of so many of us.

The group's members are not compulsive eaters, addicted to crisps and cream cakes but they are fat. And, rather than hiding inside bland beige apologies for dresses, rather than turning the other cheek when a stranger shouts abuse or a "friend" polices their lunch plate, they've decided to fight back. BBC-2's Open Space slot recently gave them the opportunity to explain their ideology in Fat Women Here To Stay. And next month, on March 18, they are holding The First National Fat Women's Conference at the London Women's Centre. "We're trying to celebrate being fat," says Heather Smith, "but there isn't fat pride in the same way that there's gay or black pride."

"I don't think we can put fat prejudice on the same agenda as racism, sexism or heterosexism—it's linked more to capitalism, imperialism and patriarchy. It just hasn't been recognised as a form of oppression before."

However, it's ironic that the average fair-minded person who would stand up against other forms of prejudice, will happily use "fat" as a term of abuse, as in: "She was really fat and horrible."

Fat oppression can come in less blatant forms too. "It's about cramming yourself into a train seat for three hours," says Liz Swinden, "or being the butt

Ten years after the revolution, there is a broad consensus that women must play a vital and equal role to men in this society. But the question of women's dress has divided Iran's post-revolutionary society—and alienated a significant proportion of its Westernised intellectuals who have been unwilling to accept the fundamentalist interpretations of dress code.

The country is falling apart from neglect and economic depression and what are women talking about?" asked one Western ambassador, who answered himself: "Whether more women are wearing scarves instead of the chador."

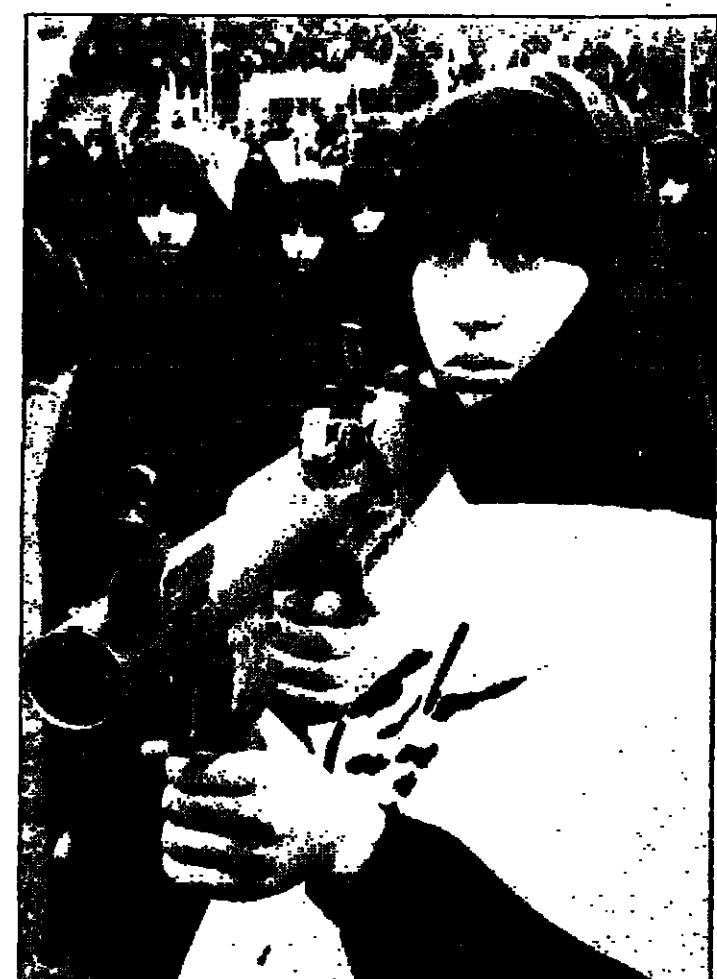
From the beginning of the revolution, radicals have sought to impose on women a dress code that considers immodest the showing of any hair, or any contour of the body, such as the line of the neck or the waist. The penalties for refusing to submit have been intimidation, threats and—at times—imprisonment.

Over the past year, however, since the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, more and more women in Iran have been sporting a daring fashion that emphasizes minimal compliance with the Islamic requirement that women should be "well covered" in public. The new boldness has created a new word in the Persian dialect: *be hejab*.

But since many of the revolutionary committees have been reined in and told to treat the population with more respect, the intimidating style of enforcement has lapsed, giving way sometimes to backlashes of boldness.

Ten years after the revolution, there is a broad consensus that women must play a vital and equal role to men in society, but the question of women's dress has divided Iran's post-revolutionary society—and alienated a significant proportion of its Westernised intellectuals.

At a recent performance of Durrenmat's *The Marriage of Mr Mississippi* at the City Theatre, the female lead wore an uncovered wig on stage, a first in the history of post-revolutionary theatre.



An Iranian woman in chador shoulders a rocket launcher. Since the ceasefire in the Gulf war women have begun to question the dress code imposed on them by the revolution.

But when state television aired a commercial with a woman wearing a wig, a storm of protest was raised by the radicals. In the Islamic code, the showing of hair holds the potential of inciting men to corrupt thoughts.

Note
At the Women's Congress, one delegate sent a long note to Rafsanjani—so lengthy he said

she recently walked in an alley dressed in a chador and sunglasses when another woman, dressed in a scarf, rushed up, ripped off her sunglasses and slapped her face saying: "All the trouble we have is because of you *Hezbollahis*."

"Is this the achievement of the revolution after 10 years?" the aggrieved woman asked. Rafsanjani fielded the question with a call for restraint on both sides. He pointed out that even if the government applied the most stringent enforcement, "there will always be a chance for 'bad hejab' women to walk in the alleys and to slap a *hejab* woman."

"I am not satisfied with the situation in the streets, but it is not as bad as you try to paint it," Rafsanjani went on, adding, "so let's try to raise more fundamental issues like the gap between rich and poor and the lack of availability of jobs for women." —Washington Post

Fighting fat oppression



Down the path of fat liberation: members of the London Fat Women's Group

of every joke.

And while we're told to exercise, it's also about being made to feel uncomfortable at a swimming or dance class, of not being able to find a leotard that fits."

There's even the oppression that comes from so-called kindness. Says Angela English: "Friends will tell me: 'Ooh, haven't you lost weight!' because they think that's what I want to hear. What they're really saying is: 'I like you— you're acceptable to me and so they assume that this way of saying it will please me.'"

It's ironic that the average fair-minded person who would stand up against other forms of prejudice will happily use 'fat' as a term of abuse as in: 'she was really fat and horrible'

Amidst the nation which gave us Raquel Welch, workout tapes and Weight Watchers, is further down the path of fat liberation than Britain.

In fact, it was an anthology by American feminist, Shadow on a Tightrope, which inspired the London group.

Voluptuous
"Our ideas have come out of feminism," says Ruth, "because we're re-examining attitudes. We're not looking inwards and making ourselves feel guilty; we're looking outwards to see the politics of why we are how we are

and what pressures we're under to conform."

"Those articles about the re-emergence of the voluptuous woman don't help," adds Liz. "We fall upon them with glee, but they're not talking about women like us, they're talking about Sigourney Weaver."

Society has taught us all to think that "fat equals failure." Look at the way Liz Taylor, Margaux Hemingway, the late Christmas Onassis and Fergie have been pilloried in the press because at certain times in their lives they haven't fitted into a size

blamed on our weight."

The group also wants to challenge the view that all fat people are lazy. Says Ruth: "People seem to think that if you just stopped being so lazy and greedy, you could be 'normal,' that it's all a question of personal choice and willpower."

While that attitude exists, it will always be easier to dismiss our point of view. Everyone can tell you about someone they know who's lost a lot of weight. What they don't tell you is that they probably put it all back again afterwards."

According to statistics, 60 per cent of British women are size 14-plus and, according to publishers, you can sell any book or magazine which includes the word "slimming" on its cover.

Because of our unceasing appetite for anything diet-related, the group hopes their programme will be seen by a broad range of viewers: women and men, fat and thin.

"What's important to get across," says Ruth, "is that in making the programme and organising the conference, we appear to have got it all sussed. People should realise that we're only just learning to like ourselves, that we're not experts and that we didn't enjoy standing in front of TV cameras, but we forced ourselves."

"I don't think you ever really feel good about yourself," Heather concludes. "But you certainly begin to feel less bad."

Christian Dior

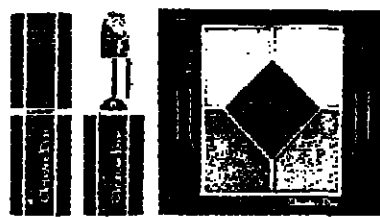
MAQUILLAGE HAUTE COULEUR



SIMPLICITE



SPRING-SUMMER COLLECTION



Christian Dior Beauticians will demonstrate the Christian Dior style of applying "SIMPLICITE", the latest colour collection, and advise on proper skin care at the following retail outlets:

OUTLETS	TEL.	DATES (March)	OUTLETS	TEL.	DATES (March)
Jashanmal & Partners Ltd.			Safeway, Fahaheel	3927228/9	1-15
Kuwait	2420071/2	1-15	Sultan Center, Salmiya	5719620/1	1-15
Jashanmal & Partners Ltd.			Anaf Exhibition	5752133	1
Salmiya	5721865	1-15	Sahara Pharmacy	5711404	1
Al Gharabally Store,			Samah Pharmacy	5717316	1 & 2
Ahmadi	3961929	1-15	Ikhlis Pharmacy	2625999	2
Safeway, Farwaniya	4738933		Shaq Co-op. Society	2445674	4
Ext. 111	1-15		Tanagra Center	2431336	4



"Sorry Mr Benson, I'm busy tonight—but my grandmother might be free."

OUTLOOK

Just a little note to say...help

By Kathy Cuddihy

DEAR —
I would very much appreciate it if you could let Kieran leave school early today so he can go to the orthodontist. I realize I should schedule his appointments for after-school hours, but it's almost impossible to arrange a time that is convenient to both the orthodontist and the child's after-school life. With the prices the orthodontist charges, you'd think he'd try to be more co-operative, but there you are. What can we mere mortals do?
Bucking the system means buck teeth, and I've already invested too much to let that happen.
I must stress that there is absolutely no truth to the rumour that Kieran bribes the orthodontist in order to have time off school. I make the appointments myself through the dental nurse...although he might have got to her somehow....

Dear —
I kept Kieran home from school yesterday because he was suffering from high fever, swollen glands, runny eyes and nose, plus symptoms for every other illness that might be making the round at this time. While heavy doses of medication cured much of Kieran's discomfort, the relief only served to increase my own

discomfort — dramatically. Have you ever had to stay home with someone who has nothing better to do than to feel sorry for himself...and to declare all-out psychological warfare on his defenseless mother?
Let me tell you, after yesterday's onslaught, I'm a wreck, a physical and nervous wreck. I trust this brief, and hopefully lucid, explanation will allow you to understand why I am sending Kieran back to school so soon. It's reached the him-or-me-stage. Since I've suddenly started to exhibit some rather quirky symptoms of my own, there's simply no contest. Just be thankful you only have the child for seven hours of the day, and gather strength from the fact that he'll probably have recovered completely by tomorrow. I'm not sure I'll be as fortunate. Good luck.

Dear —
Thank you for the copy of "Nutritious Suggestions for your Child's Lunch Box." I appreciate your concern, and the comments are certainly useful, but I feel I must set the record straight: I am well aware of the need to send children to school with a nourishing lunch.
Frequently I fret about which wholesome foods to prepare for the lunch boxes, and regularly I am faced with not one but two dilemmas: the children

either consider the good food "yucky" and refuse to let certain varieties contaminate their lunch boxes, or they accept the day's menu and barter it on the way to school.
I am as disturbed as you are to see chewing gum wrappers, chocolate bar crumbs, and crumpled packs of something quite indescribable called "Nerds." I've threatened the children with everything from stunted growth to rotten teeth to spotty skin, but the little blighters continue to defy me.
The problem would seem insurmountable unless you are willing to resort to one of the following measures: ban junk food, ban barter, or ban lunch boxes. Personally, I favour the latter solution. It would save me a lot of grief and frustration early in the mornings.

Dear —
Before you send me a note to complain that Kieran has not finished his homework for the past couple of nights, I'll save you the effort. Believe me, I am well aware of the situation. In a way, I must accept a good portion of the responsibility for this lapse.
As you may already know, Kieran does not have a prolonged attention span when it comes to school work. The successful

completion of homework therefore depends on a little maternal encouragement and even the occasional bit of assistance. Such efforts were undemanding enough in the child's younger years, but now that he has reached the higher grades I must confess I struggle at times.
From the texts he brings home, it is quite evident that there is a lot more to learn now than there was when I was at school. I swear that the lab reports this child is required to do would impress NASA scientists. Just think how difficult they are for a quiet, unassuming mother to comprehend!
Most unfair of all, though, are the maths assignments. Whatever happened to the old-fashioned addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The system has worked well for centuries. Quite honestly, I don't see why a few mathematical smart aleks think they have to improve on it. Both Kieran and I are totally confused by these new methods and new terminologies. In all fairness, I can't blame the child for not wanting to finish his homework.
On behalf of both of us, can I please ask you to lighten the load...at least until I can brush up on a few of my long-lost mental skills and forgotten knowledge.

Weekly quiz

What does your money reveal about you?

By Junius Adams

Part I

1. At the supermarket, how many times do you buy that aren't on your list?
a. Virtually none.
b. A few.
c. Quite a few.
d. Lots.
2. When do you do most of your holiday shopping?
a. All through the year, whenever there's a good sale.
b. At the very last minute, often on holiday eve.
c. Well in advance. You like to have your presents bought by the end of November or early December.
d. You try to shop in advance, but usually end up having to buy most things at the last minute.
3. After hatching out with friends from work as usual:
a. Take charge of the bill and work out exactly how much each person owes.
b. Contribute approximately what you think you owe.
c. Let someone else handle the transaction and tell you what to pay.
d. Offer to pay with your credit card and ask the others to pay you.
4. When you have accumulated too much small change, how do you get rid of it?
a. You pay for every purchase with the exact change.
b. You transfer it to a bowl, drawer or piggybank, where it just mounts up.
c. You ask a shop or bank to take it off your hands.
d. You give it as a tip to a waiter, taxi driver or hairdresser.
5. One of the good-quality shops is having a huge bargain sale

- everything is half price. You would:
a. Have a look around to see if there's anything that could be useful.
b. Buy dozens of items.
c. Ignore the sale — you don't really like marked down merchandise.
d. Go — but shop very carefully, buying only what strikes you as a real bargain.
6. When buying a present for someone special, you choose something:
a. Unusually expensive and luxurious.
b. Uniquely suited to that person individually, however difficult to find.
c. That looks expensive but isn't.
d. That you know the person has been wishing for.
7. How do you use your credit cards?
a. You prefer to pay cash and use your cards only in an emergency.
b. You use them frequently but pay the bills promptly, to avoid interest.
c. You only use them for expensive items that you couldn't afford otherwise.
d. You use your cards for everything — right up to your credit limit.
8. Where do you buy your clothes?
a. In shops with personal service where the assistants are friendly and helpful.
b. In shops where you can buy wholesale or at a big discount.
c. In upmarket shops that sell good quality designer clothes.
d. In small, unusual, offbeat shops.
9. You feel most guilty about your spending when you have:
a. Bought something which you

- could have bought much cheaper somewhere else.
- Purchased an inferior product when the high-quality version would cost only a few dinars more.
- Spent more money during the week or month than your budget allows.
- Gone on a wild shopping spree.
- On receiving an unexpectedly large bonus, you'd be likely to:
a. Treat yourself to a new wardrobe or a trip to Paris.
b. Buy presents or a celebratory meal for your friends and loved ones.
c. Invest it for high profits.
d. Pay off any debts you might have, then put the rest in a savings account.

Part II

- Mark each of the following statements with T for true or F for false.
1. Carrying large sums of money makes me very nervous.
 2. I don't mind spending money, but I hate to be overcharged.
 3. When a friend needs financial help, I'll give it if I can.
 4. No matter what I'm buying, I like to have the very best.
 5. I hate lending money to anyone, for any reason.
 6. When shopping, I want to browse and be left alone by the sales assistants.
 7. I'm constantly buying little presents for friends and family.
 8. I only borrow large amounts of money, never small ones.

9. I have a real eye for a bargain.
10. I buy good quality clothes rather than expensive designer labels.
11. I always tip well, even when the service doesn't warrant it.
12. It's my policy to lend money only to very rich people.
13. I pay all my bills on the dot.
14. I might be extra careful with money, but I'm never petty.
15. I buy more things for other people than I do for myself.
16. In a restaurant where I want to be known, I will tip lavishly.
17. I'll travel out of my way to get the lowest price on something.
18. I'd have to be a millionaire before I would pay KD50 for a pair of shoes.
19. I like to shop in local shops where everybody knows me.
20. With investments, I will risk a lot in order to gain a lot.
21. Quite often, I get a big kick out of not spending money.
22. Credit cards are a trap. I like to pay by cash or cheque.
23. When I lend money to someone, I don't expect to get it back.
24. I refuse to wear or to own a cheap or second-rate piece of clothing.
25. I won't invest in the stock market — I'm terrified I'd lose it all.
26. A dinar saved is a dinar I don't have to go out and earn.
27. When I'm feeling down or depressed, I'll cheer myself up with a present or a really special meal.
28. I like using KD10 and KD20 notes.

gives you a feeling of strength and safety, so you like to have a lot on hand. In particular, you prefer to save rather than spend. You find it hard to resist bargains, however, and will buy almost anything if the price is marked down low enough. You get a sort of perverse amusement out of associating with people less thrifty than you and seeing them throw money away on things they don't need (which you, of course, never do). What you don't like is people who try to borrow money or sponge off you in other ways. You do have one major financial problem: in your zeal to conserve dinars, you often deny yourself pleasures, conveniences or luxuries simply because they cost a bit more than you think they should. Loosen up and indulge yourself!

22 to 44 points
Money is simply a means to an end. You value money because it enables you to have what you want, go where you want and do what you please. Because money is so useful, you respect it and are careful not to fritter it away on inessential things. This may cause some people to think you are miserly or miserly. Not so! Independent and something of a loner, you don't mind being with

a group, but you have to be actually part of it — you never want to be partners with anyone or a member of a committee. You like to work alone, without some colleague or boss breathing down your neck. There's nothing wrong with independence, but your self-involvement could cause problems. You are so intent on your own goals that you often fail to notice other people's. Be more friendly and observant if you want to be better liked.

45 to 69 points
Gregarious and people-orientated, you have a large circle of friends and are intent on making it even larger. You like to make people happy, so you use your money primarily as a social lubricant. You entertain so lavishly that almost everyone is flattered to receive an invitation from you, and when you're the guest you never fail to bring a gift (big or small) that shows you really care about your host. If you hear of a friend who's in trouble and needs assistance, financial or otherwise, you'll do what you can to help. You're even generous to yourself at times (though not often). When unhappy you'll buy yourself a present or perhaps treat yourself to a mini holiday. It might surpr-

ise some of your friends — who think of you as a heavy spender — to learn that, when not using money on some social goal, you are surprisingly thrifty. You need to be if you're going to keep solvent!

70 points or more
You are quite frank about the fact that you use money to impress. Being aware that people who are regarded as well-heeled have a lot of clout in society, you want some of that for yourself. You don't care much about thrift or being financially secure, you just want a lot of money — or at least enough to make people think you have a lot. In keeping with your goals, you like to wear designer clothing, drive an expensive car, and live in a sought-after area. When you go out to eat, you want the head waiter to greet you effusively and lead you to his best table. Generally, you're quite successful in your efforts. People tend to take you at your own valuation and to treat you as an important individual. In the short run, this will help you in both your career and your social life. But you should make sure that you do acquire the money you are now, only pretending to have. Otherwise, the respect you're now getting will vanish into thin air.

Scoring

Part I			
	a	b	c
1	0	2	8
2	0	8	2
3	2	0	4
4	0	4	8
5	2	4	8
6	8	2	0
7	2	0	8
8	4	0	8
9	0	8	2
10	8	4	2

In the following table, circle the numbers of statement you marked true.

Zero points
1, 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25

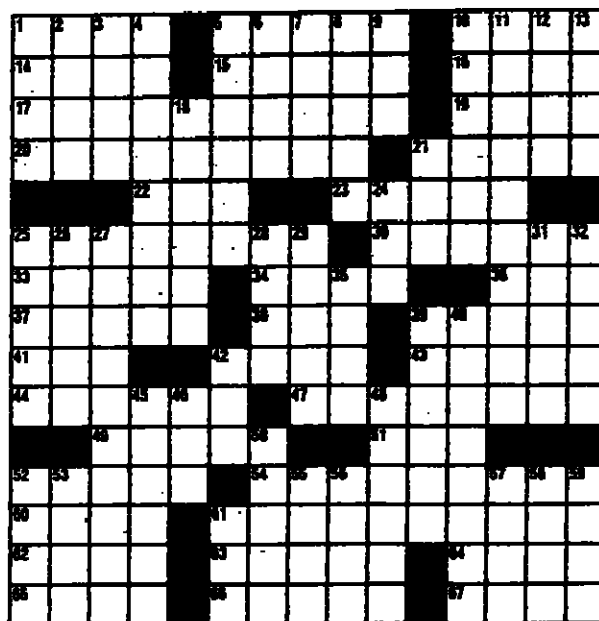
One point
2, 6, 10, 14, 18, 22, 26

Two points
3, 7, 11, 15, 19, 23, 27

Four points
4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28

Now add up your total point score for parts one and two.
Zero to 21 points
You are very fond of money. It

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Part of QED
 - 5 George of the silver screen
 - 10 Outfits
 - 14 Fabric for formal wear
 - 15 Kind of race
 - 16 Settlement in Greenland
 - 17 Football player from Greece?
 - 19 Room in a case
 - 20 Drew
 - 21 Savalas
 - 22 Bar order
 - 23 Ancient tribe of Britons
 - 25 — precipitation: amounts of rain
 - 30 Groups of eight
 - 33 Part of NOW
 - 34 Played a pipe
 - 35 New beginning
 - 37 Common Latin phrase
 - 38 Actor McKellan
 - 39 Aggressive person
 - 41 Sunday speech: Abbr.
 - 42 Vapor: Comb. form
 - 43 River at Grenoble
 - 44 Word describing Tiffie
 - 47 Parsons et al.
 - 49 Part of UCLA
 - 51 Pretty
- DOWN
- 2 Wagnerian heroine
 - 2 Carried away
 - 3 Amas
 - 4 Apartment adjuncts
 - 5 Invigorates
 - 6 Priest's home: Abbr.
 - 7 Sommer from Berlin
 - 8 Nita of silents
 - 9 Seaman's rope
 - 10 Feel ill will
 - 11 Theatrical backdrop from Rome?
 - 12 Rancor
 - 13 "One-hoss —"
- picture
- 52 — Glass Company: 18th and 19th cen. traders
 - 60 Anderson of TV
 - 61 Arrival at Heathrow?
 - 62 Kitchen follower
 - 63 Role player
 - 64 Author Ferber
 - 65 Boggy wasteland
 - 66 Tries out
 - 67 Singer Diana
- 18 Creative ability
- 21 Gumshoe
 - 24 Deunt
 - 25 Dickens' founding
 - 26 Bronco-busting event
 - 27 Poetry for a Yankee?
 - 28 Newspaper item, for short
 - 29 Moth attraction
 - 31 Inventor of farm machinery
 - 32 Afflictions
 - 35 Son of Seth
 - 39 Coordinates
 - 40 Native of Hawaii
 - 42 Hero of "Exodus"
 - 45 Less energetic
 - 46 Actor Ron
 - 48 Turkic people
 - 50 Haha, e.g.
 - 52 Lady Churchill, to friends
 - 53 Newspaper section, for short
 - 55 FBI people
 - 56 Coin taker
 - 57 Frank
 - 58 Hotels' country cousins
 - 59 Oriental bigwigs
 - 61 "—, drink and be merry!"

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
EQUAL IS NOT THE SAME

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 8 6 5 3
♥ K 6 4 3
♦ 8 4
♣ Q 9 5

WEST

♠ 7 4
♥ Q 10 7 5
♦ K J 9 6 3
♣ 4 2

EAST

♠ Q J 10 9
♥ J 9
♦ Q 10 2
♣ K 8 7 6

SOUTH

♠ A K 2
♥ A 8 2
♦ A 7 5
♣ A J 10 3

The bidding:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♦ Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♦
The theme of today's hand is a situation that is misplayed almost as often as it is handled correctly. It is a simple combination that crops up frequently at the table.

The bidding was simple. South's opening bid showed a balanced 21-22 points (he correctly added 1 point for possession of all four aces). North probed for a major-suit fit with Stayman, then settled for the no-trump game after South denied a major.

West made the textbook lead of fourth-best from his longest and strongest, hitting declarer's weak spot. There were only six fast tricks—the remaining three would have to come from the club suit via a

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:
LANGUIR ASCIT HITS
ELAINIE THAIN AILP
HANGUP EARL LILO
ATA LANGLAUFER
RES TIL GOWN
ACIDY SLANG
LANGUAGE ERIO
BLOAT NAB ASTOR
ATOZ LANGSYNE
RAKIS ESTOC
NOUN ANY CIVIL
LANGOSTINO LIEN
OJO TUES REMARK
MAD HARE AVENGE
AXIE ELISE LANGIER

finesse. Declarer made the technically correct play of holding up the ace of diamonds for two rounds, discarding a spade from dummy on the third round. Now everything hinged on which defender held the king of clubs.

We know that many declarers would cross to dummy with the king of hearts to lead the queen of clubs. When that won the trick, they would continue with a club to the ten and then cash the ace of clubs in an attempt to drop the king. When that didn't work, they would have to concede down one.

Since declarer holds the J-10 of clubs, the queen and nine are equals. But it is most important which card declarer leads from dummy for the finesse. He must play the nine! When that wins, declarer can next lead the queen. If that is not covered, declarer is still in dummy to take a third finesse to bring in the whole club suit and land his contract.



"And the dragon, breathing fire, roared, 'Where have you been till this time of night?'"



"Of course they tell the audience when to laugh—they wouldn't know otherwise!"

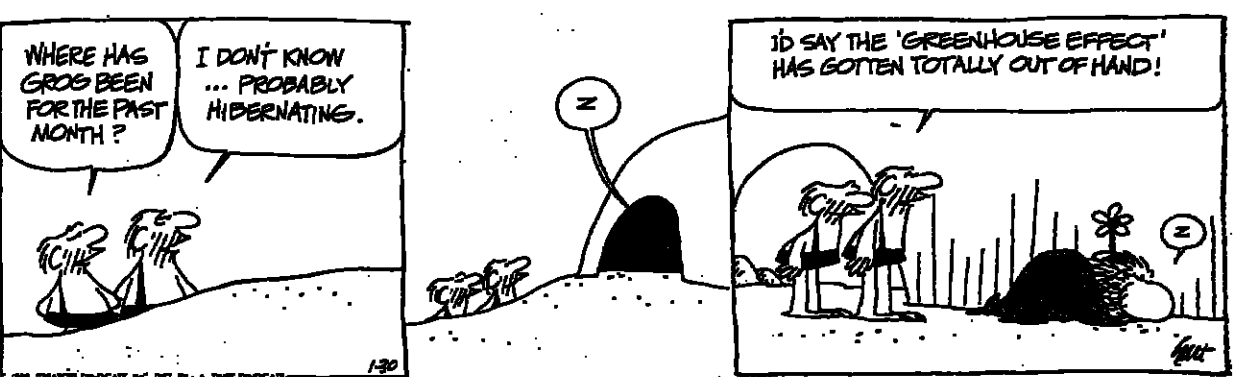
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)
Avoid making any promises you do not intend or are not able to carry out. You should not make out you are expert in a subject about which you know relatively little. A good opportunity is likely to have passed before you are able to avail yourself of it.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)
Everything is liable to take just a little longer today, so do not waste time or divert your energies. You should make sure you are clear in yourself what you intend to do. Do not expect others always to agree with you. Be helpful.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)
You are rather too liable to assume that what you would like to happen in fact will. You will have something to be really pleased about. However that should not cause you to relax your efforts. Be pertinent.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19)
If you exaggerate you may well land yourself in deep waters. 40 and 26 are your lucky numbers. You are liable to have doubts about yourself — no need to. You should make sure you do not waste time or dissipate your energies. Be realistic.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)
Avoid pretending to knowledge you have not got. Do not try to fly in the face of the facts. You should not keep your partner in the dark about your intentions. Be punctual.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)
You would do well to let others to whom you are grateful know that you are. You will be able to make a few changes and should not wait before making them. You are liable to 'put your foot in it' so beware! Be generous.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
A matter you put to one side will now have to be dealt with without further delay. Others will not behave nearly as you expected them to. A tendency to jump to conclusions and act on impulse must be curbed. Be moderate.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
Mercury's better influence will help you to make excellent progress. You will be able to see further than just the end of your nose. You should not allow some small disappointment to put you entirely off your stride. Be observant.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)
You should do your best to suppress a certain amount of aggressive inclination. All kinds of exaggerations and distortions of the truth are to be avoided. You should try to show just a little more goodwill. Be sincere.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)
You will tend to feel a little more nervous and unsure of yourself. Just get on with doing what has to be done without thinking too much about why and wherefore. And concentrate on essentials leaving trivialities until later. Be frugal.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
The Moon's better influence will help you to get a move on. You must make sure you tidy up as you go along without getting into a too great muddle. You will have to wait a little longer for results but your patience will be rewarded. Be accurate.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)
You will tend to become rather anxious for no good reason. You should try to have more faith in yourself and to look on the bright side. Make sure you do not let your self-love sight of your objectives. Be considerate.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Indonesia hopes to sign new contracts with foreign oil firms

JAKARTA, Feb 28, (OPECNA): Following the recently announced incentives for the petroleum industry, Indonesia hopes to sign at least a dozen new production-sharing contracts with foreign oil companies this year, according to Minister of Mines and Energy Ginasjar Kartasasmita.

"The number, however, will be at least the same as in 1988," he said.

He told OPECNA today that with the new agreements, plus those signed last year, the country's oil reserves would increase significantly and its production capacity would receive a boost.

He also denied reports that because of its "aging oilfields" Indonesia was finding it difficult to reach its allotted national output level under the OPEC production agreement of November 1988.

"We are now indeed producing a little bit under the OPEC-agreed level of 1.24 million BPD, but this is not because there is anything the matter with our oilfields," he said.

He said the current output was what it was because of a number of factors, including Indonesia's commitment to the current OPEC production agreement, measures taken by the government to conserve oil reserves and the decision not to "compete with ourselves on the market."

Indian firms invited to set up joint ventures with Saudis

NEW DELHI, Feb 28, (KUNA): Saudi Arabia today invited Indian companies to set up joint ventures with Saudi industrialists and businessmen in the fields of power generation, health services, telecommunications, railways, cement, construction, petrochemicals, and gas- and oil-based industries within the kingdom.

The invitation was extended by Saad Al Moajil, chairman of the Saudi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, at a meeting with representatives from the Indian Chamber of Commerce here.

The 24-member Saudi delegation had detailed talks with Raunaq Singh, who led the Indian side. Saudi Ambassador to India Sheikh Foud Mufti also attended the discussion.

The Indian side offered to export to Saudi Arabia electronic goods, agricultural equipment, automobile components, ready-made garments, medicine, steel tubes and hospital equipment.

India's exports to Saudi Arabia had increased up to 1984-85, but have been stagnant at about Rs 21.50 million during the subsequent years. India's potential as an exporter of manufactured goods has yet to be explored by the Saudis.

Saad M. Al Moajil said that 50 per cent of the financing being extended by the Saudi Arabian government for joint ventures established in Saudi Arabia was free of interest. This provided an advantage for setting up joint ventures not only for catering to the Middle East market but for India's domestic market also.

In order to assess the potential of joint ventures between India and Saudi Arabia in that country, he said it was essential to make an in-depth study. Oil and gas oriented industries, he said, provided ample opportunities for Indians to invest.

Sheikh Mufti observed that visa formalities had been streamlined and that difficulties existed only in very few cases. Earlier, Raunaq Singh said that foreign direct investment from Saudi Arabia to India would be advantageous, especially in areas which required sophisticated technology, where critical production gaps existed, or where substantial export potential was expected. He wanted the Saudis to consider India as a business partner and join hands with Indian businessmen for setting up joint industrial ventures in hotels, hospitals, tourism and banking, which offered excellent opportunities.

\$2b foreign debt

ASUNCION, Feb 28, (Reuters): Paraguay will renegotiate its \$2 billion foreign debt, an official in the government of President Andres Rodriguez, who took power in a coup three weeks ago, said yesterday.

"We must admit that we have difficulties in the economic field," presidential secretary Conrado Pappalardo said.

Consumer spending on the rise

US inflation accelerated at end of '88

WASHINGTON, Feb 28, (Agencies): US inflation was running faster than first thought in the final months of 1988 even though the economy was slowing down, the government said today.

The Commerce Department said the implicit price deflator, a broad gauge of inflation that measures price changes in total economic output, rose at a 5.3 per cent annual rate between October and December and not by 4.7 per cent as estimated a month ago.

The growth rate in the gross national product, the total output of goods and services, was 2.0 per cent in the fourth quarter the same as estimated a month ago.

The 5.3 per cent rise in the GNP deflator followed an increase of 4.7 per cent in the

third quarter. An alternative inflation gauge, the GNP fixed weights price index, rose at a 4.2 per cent rate between October and December, down from 5.3 per cent in the third quarter but up from the preliminary estimate of 4.0 per cent.

The inflation figures underscored the challenge facing Federal Reserve Board chairman Alan Greenspan, who has tightened credit aggressively in recent weeks in an attempt to put a lid on mounting price pressures in the economy.

Control

The Federal Reserve—the US central bank—last week launched another round of credit-tightening in an attempt to get inflation under control.

However, critics contend that

given the sluggish growth of the economy, the higher interest rates are likely to topple the country into a recession.

Consumer spending, propelled by a hefty jump in spending for big-ticket items such as cars, rose by 3.5 per cent in the final three months of the year, almost one full percentage point above the previous estimate.

For all of 1988 the economy grew at a brisk 3.8 per cent rate after inflation compared with 3.4 per cent in 1987.

Record

The 2.0 per cent fourth-quarter growth rate, lower than Wall Street forecasts of 2.5 per cent, was the slowest since the final quarter of 1986 when GNP rose by 1.4 per cent.

If the figures had not been affected by the early-summer

drought, which led to losses in crop and livestock output, the growth rate last quarter would have been about 3.1 per cent.

The increase underlined Greenspan's assessment last week that economic expansion, now in its seventh year which is a peacetime record, remains vigorous and unusually well-balanced.

The figures were adjusted to remove the effects of inflation and seasonal factors.

The value of GNP, in inflation-adjusted terms and at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, was \$4.03 trillion in the fourth quarter, \$20.3 billion higher than the third quarter.

The revisions to GNP, which will be revised again in a month, were unusually small.

The trade gap measured on

this basis, which economists say is more accurate than the monthly merchandise trade figures, widened by \$9.8 billion to \$103.3 billion at an annual rate in the fourth quarter.

Rates

It was the first quarterly deterioration since 1986 and many economists are concerned that it will continue to worsen unless high interest rates start to choke off spending on imported consumer goods.

Many economists expect the economy to slow this year. The Federal Reserve is projecting growth of 2.5 to 3.0 per cent, while the average forecast of analysts polled in the latest survey by the National Association of Business Economists was for inflation-adjusted GNP growth of 2.7 per cent.

Kuwait, US to expand economic ties

KUWAIT, Feb 28, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Abdel Razaq Al Khalid conferred at his office today with a visiting American delegation grouping US businessmen and representatives of American corporations on bilateral co-operation in commercial fields.

Al Khalid told KUNA that he discussed with the group economic and commercial relations between states of the Arabian Gulf region and the United States and the prospects of expanding them in the future.

He indicated that those ties were based on the mutual understanding of issues of common concern to both sides, such as the topic of the Iraq-Iran war, the need for securing free navigation and peace in the Gulf, as well as reaching a solution to the Palestinian cause.

Al Khalid stated that talks generally reviewed bilateral commercial links. He said he briefed the American delegation on the unified economic agreement concluded by the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) member states.

Co-operation among GCC



Kuwait's Commerce and Industry Minister Faisal Abdel Razaq Al Khalid (third from left) pictured with the US business delegation.

members in commercial, economic and industrial fields was also discussed with the group, with the aim of making use of the experience in formulating further co-operation in the future.

after the anticipated signing of a free-trade agreement between the United States and Canada.

The meeting was attended by Commerce and Industry Ministry Undersecretary Abdallah Al

Hamad, senior officials of the ministry and the US ambassador to Kuwait.

The delegation, which arrived here on Sunday, is scheduled to leave later today.

Air Afrique tells competitors to cut back flights

ABIDJAN, Feb 28, (Reuters): Africa's multinational airline, Air Afrique, has told its competitors to cut back flights and limit passenger loads, an Air Afrique spokesman said today.

A letter containing the order has been sent to all competing airlines operating in West and Central Africa by the 10 governments that jointly own Air Afrique, the spokesman said.

"The decision was taken at (Ivory Coast's inland capital) Yamoussoukro to reduce the number of flights by other companies," he added.

Heads of state from Air Afrique countries met in Yamoussoukro on Feb 2 and approved a rescue plan for the heavily-indebted carrier proposed by France's foreign aid agency director Yves Roland-Billecart.

Airline sources said foreign companies had been given until November to reduce flights in and out of the region to one per week with no more than 100 passengers.

Companies in Ivory Coast that may have to cut flights to Europe to one from two include the Belgian airline Sabena, Spain's Iberia and Swissair.

Ethiopian Airlines has been asked to reduce its flights out of Ivory Coast to three from five, the sources added.

The Air Afrique spokesman said each shareholder government had issued the order in its own country. Air Afrique is owned by Ivory Coast, Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

Economic accord

TEHRAN, Feb 28, (OPECNA): Under an economic accord signed in Belgrade last week between Iran and Yugoslavia, the latter will import 1.5 million tons of crude oil from Iran, up by 0.5 million over last year.

According to Iranian Minister of Finance and Economy Mohammad Javad Irvani who returned here on Friday, Yugoslavia would export essential goods to Iran such as rice, meat and corn.

The minister said Yugoslav officials had expressed their readiness to import more Iranian non-oil products, while Iran would import paper from Belgrade and also receive assistance to build a newspaper factory.

Under the accord, the Yugoslav Bank of Economic and International Co-operation will provide Iranian factories with one to two year deferred-payment terms.

Non-OPEC export cut to be unconditional: study

NICOSIA, Feb 28, (Agencies): Non-OPEC producers will cut their exports for the second quarter without any reciprocal reduction by OPEC, MEES reported.

It said non-OPEC producers are expected to announce output cuts on or before March 3.

"MEES understands that the cuts will be made unconditionally, and will not be dependent on any reciprocal action by OPEC," the Nicosia-based oil industry newsletter said.

Technical experts from independent oil producers had met in London on Feb 21 and six countries had agreed to cut exports by five per cent of oil industry sources said last week.

MEES said six non-OPEC countries agreed to cut exports by a total 188,000 barrels per day (BPD) as follows: (in BPD) Mexico 68,000, China 31,000, Oman 28,000, Egypt 24,000, North Yemen 20,000, Malaysia 17,000.

Exports

Apart from the six, Angola and Colombia have decided to freeze exports, Norway is sticking to its pledge to cut production by 7.5 per cent.

"All in all, the non-OPEC effort may not perhaps add up to very much in volume terms. But it will be a good deal better than nothing in a potentially troubled second quarter," MEES said.

The United Arab Emirates is likely to average production of 1.5 million barrels of oil a day in the first quarter of 1989, an oil newsletter reported today.

The Middle East Economic Survey said UAE production is programmed to be reduced to 1.36 million barrels a day in March to lower the quarterly average.

UAE production in the final quarter of 1988 was two million barrels a day.

Quota

"Significantly—whether by accident or design—the 1.5 million barrel a day average production for the first quarter works out at exactly the figure that the UAE was last year proposing as its self-allocated OPEC quota," the Middle East Economic Survey said.

UAE production compares with the actual quota of 988,000 barrels a day given the federation

by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries at a meeting last November.

Syria is involved in oilfield development which could raise its total production to 450,000 BPD in 1990, the newsletter reported today.

MEES said that by next month, stepped-up production in new fields will bring Syrian production to 355,000 BPD. Syrian production in 1988 was 270,000 BPD.

New fields being developed by the First Petroleum Co. and expected to be operating in 1990 could add 100,000 BPD to total production, the newsletter said.

Production

In 1989, Syria is expected to export 140,000 BPD and most of the new production would presumably be available for export when it comes on stream in 1990.

The First Petroleum Co. is owned 50 per cent by the state-owned Syrian Petroleum Co., 31.25 per cent by Royal Dutch Shell and US Shell and 18.75 per cent by Deminex of West Germany.

Meanwhile, an editorial in a

UAE daily has expressed optimism over the outlook for the world oil market following the positive outcome of the non-OPEC oil experts' meeting in London last week.

The Dubai-based "Khaleej Times" said at the weekend that a production cut by non-OPEC oil producers should be viewed not in absolute but symbolic terms.

"True, it may be a drop in the bucket but the symbolic act will be welcomed as a gesture to OPEC's... lone battle for stabilising the market," it said.

Success

"The credit for the current success should go to Oman for picking up the thread from Mexico," the paper commented.

It stressed that the most important thing was to achieve market stability through shared responsibility.

Highlighting the importance of non-OPEC oil producers in stabilising the market, the paper said "it is in the best interest of OPEC to spread the culture of a long-term price outlook to the other camp, which could otherwise fritter away their small reserves for short-term gains."

Environmental group forms to fight dam on Yangtze

BEIJING, Feb 28, (AP): A group of Chinese journalists and engineers is fighting plans to build a massive dam on the Yangtze River, marking the first time intellectuals in this country have united to express concerns about China's environment.

The group, which says it will hold its first news conference today, also has published a book criticising the Three Gorges Hydroelectric Project, a 15,000-megawatt installation at the dam that would be the world's largest water power project.

The book marks the first time Chinese journalists have worked together "based on their conscience, not on what the state-run press had told them to do," said Dai Qing, editor of the book prepared by journalists from the People's Daily, Xinhua news agency and other leading publications.

Concerned

Dai, an editor at the prestigious Guangming daily, said she organised opposition because huge industrial projects "need to be discussed by all of

society, not just by a few men in a ministry somewhere."

She said all the journalists and engineers in the group are concerned with China's environment, which has deteriorated rapidly during the past 10 years of swift economic growth.

Her comments come at a time when an increasing number of Chinese intellectuals are challenging the government's monopoly on decision-making power.

"Since the 1949 revolution, my country has undertaken thousands of mistaken projects," she said. "But you would think that in a planned economy, things would be carried out scientifically. That's not the case in China."

In the 1950s and 1960s, she said, industrial projects were pushed on their political merits. Opponents of the Three Gorges project were branded as "rightists" in political campaigns in those days.

Now, government ministries compete for scarce resources for their projects, paying little heed to the interests of the nation as a

whole, she said.

"It may be less political, but the behaviour is just as harmful to the country," she said.

Dai said she realised she was risking her job and possibly her future by openly voicing her opinion.

"But that doesn't bother me," she said. "I cannot keep silent."

Since the communist revolution in 1949, Chinese politicians have been considering a plan to build a 185-metre (610-foot)-high dam on the Yangtze near the border of Sichuan and Hubei provinces in central China.

The dam would block the Three Gorges, covering forever the vistas celebrated in Chinese scroll paintings for centuries.

The dam would tame the perennial floods of the mighty Yangtze, the third longest river in the world after the Nile and the Amazon. It also would provide energy to nearby cities like Chungking, China's biggest urban centre, with 16 million people. Factories in Chungking are idle at least 20 per cent of the time because they lack power.

ACC willing to establish good ties with GCC

BAHRAIN, Feb 28, (Reuters): Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said today the newly-formed Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) wanted good relations with an older six-nation Gulf alliance.

"ACC states are willing to establish good relations and co-operation with their brothers in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC)," the Gulf News Agency quoted him as saying.

Aziz spoke after talks with Bahrain's Amir Sheikh Isa Bin Sulman Al Khalifa, who is current GCC chairman. The economic and political alliance formed in September 1981 also includes Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Agreement

The leaders of Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan signed an agreement setting up the ACC on Feb 14 in a bid to create a common market for their 80 million people. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is its current chairman.

World Business Summary

Argentina to seek IMF credit

BUENOS AIRES, Feb 28, (Reuters): Argentina will ask the International Monetary Fund for a \$300-million credit to help it meet arrears in service payments on its \$60-billion foreign debt, Economy Ministry sources said today. They said Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea would visit the United States this week for talks with the IMF. Argentina is under pressure from its creditors, who have threatened to raise the country's financial risk level as a result of its debt arrears, they said. If the risk level is raised, creditor banks could withhold up to 30 per cent of agreed loans to Argentina, they said. Creditor bank sources in the United States said Argentina has debt service arrears of \$2.5 billion. Since mid-1988 Argentina has been negotiating a \$1.2 billion stand-by loan from the IMF. The IMF has not granted the loan yet because of Argentina's failure to meet agreed economic targets: reduction of the state deficit and lower inflation. The main opposition Peronist Party, meanwhile, said that if it took power this year it would seek relaxed conditions for payment of Argentina's massive debt. The party's national congress, meeting at the Atlantic resort of Mar del Plata, 250 miles (400 km) south of Buenos Aires, last night approved the party platform for the May 14 elections. Among the points approved was the payment of Argentina's foreign debt through agreements with creditors that allowed the country to meet its obligations without hampering growth. "The programme of payments" will follow the path of an agreement of a (period) of grace, deferment or concerted moratorium that unites meeting the Argentine state's contractual obligations with the moral obligation of economic growth," the party said among the points on the platform. Mamele de La Sota, one of the party's leaders, said a "concerted moratorium" meant reduction of debt principal and a grace period to be agreed by creditors. The Mar del Plata meeting marked the launching of the presidential campaign of Peronist candidate Carlos Menem, who in recent public opinion polls led Eduardo Angeloz of the ruling Radicals by around eight percentage points. A government poll put the two candidates neck and neck. Menem in a brief speech closing the meeting said there was flexibility in the party platform and changes could arise during the course of the campaign.

Sayed on trial in Sweden's first insider trade case

STOCKHOLM, Feb 28, (Reuters): Egyptian-born businessman Refaat El Sayed went on trial today facing charges which include the first case of insider trading to come to court in Sweden. Sayed, who in the early 1980s built up the biotechnology firm Fermenta AB, faces 14 different charges linked to his running of the business, which collapsed in debt in 1987. Eight of the charges against Sayed are for fraud. He denies all 14 charges. "Refaat only ever acted with Fermenta's best interests in mind, and should be acquitted," his lawyer Leif Silbersky said before the opening hearing. The trial in Stockholm district court is expected to last three months. The charges carry a maximum penalty of eight years in jail. Sayed is accused of giving false information and forecasts regarding Fermenta's results. The company's forecast of a \$113-million profit in 1986 turned into a \$88-million loss. The shock sent the Fermenta share price tumbling from a peak of about \$50 in early 1987 to one-tenth of that value a year later. The insider dealing charge is based on Sayed's sale of over 400,000 Fermenta shares in late 1986 on information which, according to the prosecution, should have been made public. Sayed's standing in Sweden was such that he was named "Swede of the Year" for 1986 by a television news programme. He encouraged thousands of small investors to buy stakes in Fermenta—one of the star stocks in 1985.

MULTINATIONAL COMPANY REQUIRES

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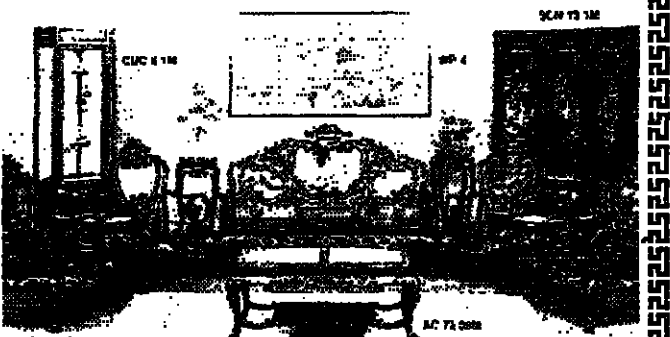
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LONDON (Alpha Stocks)		LONDON (Beta Stocks)	
NAME	LAST	NAME	CLOSE
ABBEY LIFE	315.0	ABELECT	429.0
ADT LTD	140.0	APV PLC	147.0
ALD LYONS	468.0	AARONSON	118.0
AMSTRAD	150.0	AAR HLD	404.0
ARGYLL GP	183.0	AAB KENT	88.0
ASDA GP	144.5	ADDISON	28.0
SAA	301.0	ALEX WIKW	167.0
BTR	349.0	ALEXON	363.0
BAT INDS	530.0	ALLD IR B	239.0
BARCLAYS	442.0	ALLIANCE	960.0
BASS	963.0	ALLD COLL	137.0
BEAZER	67.00	ALLD LHM	140.0
BEECHAMS	158.0	ALLD PART	73.0
BERISFORD	563.0	AMBER DAY	46.0
BICC PLC	442.0	AMER TSH	128.0
BLUE ARMY	91.00	ANGIA TV	263.0
BLUE CIRC	517.0	ANSBACHER	77.0
BOC GP	476.0	APPLEYARD	441.0
BOOTS CO	257.0	AUSLEY LA	113.0
BPB INDS	244.0	AUST REED	388.0
BR CORR	123.0	AUS REE A	256.0
BR AIRWAY	287.0	AUTO SECS	258.0
BR AEROSP	507.0	AVESCO	134.0
BR GAS RG	165.0	AVIS EUR	371.0
BR LAND	258.0	A.S.W.HLD	231.0
B.P.	154.0	AVDEL PLC	99.0
B.P.PP	78.2	AVON RUBB	630.0
BR TELCOM	268.0	BARON GP	154.0
BURMAN OL	535.0	BBA GROUP	194.0
BURTON	199.0	SCOTNEW	444.0
CABLEWIR	423.0	SEARS	117.0
CADSBURY	341.0	SEARIS	244.0
CALOR GRP	37.0	SEARIS	244.0
CLRN CO	85.0	SEARIS	244.0
CLRN R T	808.0	SEARIS	244.0
COOKSONS	348.0	SEARIS	244.0
COURTAULD	300.0	SEARIS	244.0
DALGETY	356.0	SEARIS	244.0
DIXONS	155.0	SEARIS	244.0
ENG CHINA	516.0	SEARIS	244.0
ENTER OIL	523.0	SEARIS	244.0
FKI BABCO	176.0	SEARIS	244.0
FERRANTI	110.0	SEARIS	244.0
FISONS	281.0	SEARIS	244.0
GATEWAY	163.0	SEARIS	244.0
GEN ACCIO	930.0	SEARIS	244.0
GEN ELEC	226.0	SEARIS	244.0
GLAXO	238.0	SEARIS	244.0
GRANADA	346.0	SEARIS	244.0
GLOBE	161.0	SEARIS	244.0
GLYNED	315.0	SEARIS	244.0
GUARD RYL	208.0	SEARIS	244.0
GUN	352.0	SEARIS	244.0
GUINNESS	405.0	SEARIS	244.0
HANSON	77.0	SEARIS	244.0
HARRISON C	72.0	SEARIS	244.0
HAKER SID	645.0	SEARIS	244.0
HILLSDOWN	274.0	SEARIS	244.0
ICI	164.0	SEARIS	244.0

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BASS	963.0	ALLD COLL	137.0
BEAZER	67.00	ALLD LHM	140.0
BEECHAMS	158.0	ALLD PART	73.0
BERISFORD	563.0	AMBER DAY	46.0
BICC PLC	442.0	AMER TSH	128.0
BLUE ARMY	91.00	ANGIA TV	263.0
BLUE CIRC	517.0	ANSBACHER	77.0
BOC GP	476.0	APPLEYARD	441.0
BOOTS CO	257.0	AUSLEY LA	113.0
BPB INDS	244.0	AUST REED	388.0
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DALGETY	356.0	SEARIS	244.0
DIXONS	155.0	SEARIS	244.0
ENG CHINA	516.0	SEARIS	244.0
ENTER OIL	523.0	SEARIS	244.0
FKI BABCO	176.0	SEARIS	244.0
FERRANTI	110.0	SEARIS	244.0
FISONS	281.0	SEARIS	244.0
GATEWAY	163.0	SEARIS	244.0
GEN ACCIO	930.0	SEARIS	244.0
GEN ELEC	226.0	SEARIS	244.0
GLAXO	238.0	SEARIS	244.0
GRANADA	346.0	SEARIS	244.0
GLOBE	161.0	SEARIS	244.0
GLYNED	315.0	SEARIS	244.0
GUARD RYL	208.0	SEARIS	244.0
GUN	352.0	SEARIS	244.0
GUINNESS	405.0	SEARIS	244.0
HANSON	77.0	SEARIS	244.0
HARRISON C	72.0	SEARIS	244.0
HAKER SID	645.0	SEARIS	244.0
HILLSDOWN	274.0	SEARIS	244.0
ICI	164.0	SEARIS	244.0

NEW YORK

NAME	OPEN	MID-DAY
A BSCH COM	33.0	32.7
ATLANTIC R	84.6	84.3
AAR CORP	25.2	25.0
ABBOTT LAB	50.7	50.6
ACME CLVLD	10.6	10.7
ADV MICRO	8.3	8.3
AEROFIL LAB	5.0	5.0
AETNA LIFE	49.5	49.5
AMERGEN	16.4	16.4
AIR PR-CHM	44.5	44.6
ALASKA AIR	24.3	24.4
ALBERTSONS	39.2	39.2
ALMA 8-16	0	83.0
ALCAN ALUM	112.0	112.0
ALCO STAND	26.2	26.0
AM CAP SEC	21.5	21.5
AM CYANAMID	49.4	49.2
AM FAMILY	15.2	15.2
AM HOM PR	86.1	86.4
AM STANDARD	0	77.7
AM STORES	57.0	57.1
AM TEL-TEL	30.1	30.1
AMOCO CORP	76.2	76.1
AMP INC	45.2	45.4
AMPCO PITT	14.5	14.5
AMR CORP	58.7	59.0
AMR GEN CO	33.2	33.0
AMERADIA HE	33.5	33.6
ANTHEM ELE	9.3	9.4
APACHE CP	8.5	8.5
APPAL 8-12	0	82.2
ARMSTRONG	37.3	37.4
ASHLAND OIL	34.0	33.6
ASIA PACIFIC	8.0	8.0
ATL CORP	25.0	25.2
AT&T	21.0	21.1
AVNET INC	21.2	21.3
AVON PRODS	22.0	22.0
BCE INC	31.2	31.2
BELLSOUTH	40.6	40.6
BELO CP A	25.0	25.1
BETH STEEL	25.5	25.4
BEVERLY	8.5	8.5
BK BOSTON	24.2	24.2
BK BOSTN-A	39.4	39.6
BK NY-NY	41.7	41.6
BK AMERICA	20.6	20.7
BKAM SPEC	6.4	6.4
BOISE CAS	41.0	41.2
BND IN GLD	7.4	7.4
BORDEN	56.1	56.1
BOJATER	27.6	27.6
BR TELECOM	47.2	47.0
BRIGGS-STR	28.2	28.2
BRIST-MYER	44.7	44.7
BRUNSWICK	18.1	18.1
C 3 INC	11.0	11.0
C HUD G-EL	21.3	21.3
CABOT CORP	43.1	43.0
CAESARS INC	29.4	29.4
CAL FREIGHT	24.6	25.0
CAS NAT GAS	0	14.4
CASAT-DOO	26.1	26.0
CATERP TR	58.7	58.7
CBT IND	27.4	27.3
CBS	167.5	167.5
CENTEL CP	64.0	64.2
CHAMP INTL	33.2	33.1
CHAMP SPA	21.5	21.5
CHARTER CO	5.0	5.1
CHASE MAN	31.4	31.3
CHEMED CP	0	33.3
CHEM BK	31.0	30.7
CHEVRON	48.4	48.3
CHRYSLER	25.6	25.6
CHUBB CORP	64.5	64.0
CHUR FR CH	10.3	10.2
CIGNA CORP	53.3	53.1
CIR CTT ST	38.4	37.7
CIRCLE K	21.7	21.7
CITICORP	25.7	25.7
CLARK EQU	34.0	34.1
CLOREX	31.3	31.2
CMPLL RES	0	13
CMPLL SP	31.4	31.6
COACHMEN	9.3	9.3
COASTAL	34.0	33.6
COCA-COLA	47.2	46.7
COLECO	13	13
COLEMAN CO	67.6	67.7
COLG-PALM	44.5	44.4
COLUM GAS	35.1	34.7
COLUMBUS-C	0	112.0
COM EDISON	32.6	32.4
COMAGRA	29.5	29.6
COM EDISON	44.3	44.3
CONTINENTAL	32.6	32.6
CONTEL ILL	0	0
CONTEL CP	45.6	45.6
CONTE NATA	21.1	21.1
COOPER T-R	24.5	24.5
COOPER CO	33.0	33.0
CORNING GL	58.1	58.0
CRAY RES	5.3	5.3
CULLINET	38.3	38.4
DANA CORP	11.3	11.3
DANIEL IND	18.7	18.7
DAYTON HUD	45.1	45.0
DEC	113.3	113.2
DEERE-CO	48.0	47.7
DELTA AIR	54.7	55.1
DIAMOND SH	16.5	16.5
DIEBOLD	45.1	45.0
DISNEY W	73.4	73.2
DOVER CORP	28.2	28.3
DOM CHENIC	93.7	93.7
DOM JONES	31.7	31.7
DRESSER INC	34.3	34.4
DUN PWR	27.3	27.3
DUN BRAD	45.3	45.2
DUPONT	52.7	52.7
DUPONTE	94.4	94.2
DUPONTE	18.3	18.4
DYNAMICS	23.0	22.7
E SYSTEMS	29.4	29.4
EAGLE PICH	15.5	15.4
EASTERN G	24.2	24.6
EMERSON EL	29.6	29.6
EMERSON RA	4.1	4.1
ETHYL CP	23.3	23.1
EXXON	43.6	43.6
FAN DOL ST	12.1	12.1
FED NAT MO	59.5	59.4
FELDCREST	21.6	21.6
FLEETWOOD	26.2	26.2
FLENNING CO	31.1	30.7
FNC CORP	37.2	37.3
FORD MOTOR	52.1	51.7
FOSTER WHL	16.4	16.4
FRCHLD IND	12.0	12.0
FREE MC OG	4.5	4.5
FST BANK	20.5	20.4
FST CHICAG	35.2	35.1
FST INTERS	45.4	45.4
FST MISSIP	18.7	18.6
GAF CORP	50.6	51.0
GANNETT CO	36.4	36.6
GALVESTON	2.0	2.0
GATX CORP	56.7	57.0
GCA CP	0	5.2
GEN DATA	5.2	5.2

NAME	OPEN	MID-DAY
GEN DYNICS	50/5	50/6
GEN ELECT	46/1	46/1
GEN HOST	8/4	8/4
GEN HOUSEW	9/4	9/3
GEN INSTR	33/1	33/1
GEN MILLS	54/6	54/4
GEN MOTORS	85/4	85/1
GEN SIGNAL	49/3	49/5
GENCORP	16/7	16/7
GENETECH	20/1	20/1
GENIUS PA	36/4	36/2
GEO PUT-BO	76/4	76/2
GEORGI-PAC	40/2	40/1
GIBR FI CL	14	14
GLOBAL MAR	*15	*15
NICOR INC	30/7	31/1
NL INDS	20/7	20/7
NOBLE AFF	10/7	11/0
NORD RENT	12/1	12/0
GRACE WR	26/7	26/6
GRAINGER	54/7	55/0
GREYHOUND	29/0	29/1
GRUMMAN	20/0	20/0
GULF RES-C	11/5	11/5
GULF-WESTN	40/3	40/2
HALLIBURTH	28/5	28/5
HALLWOOD	0	15/5
HANNA MIN	23/0	23/0
HARRIS CP	27/3	27/4
HARTMARX	25/4	25/3
HELM-KURIS	46/4	46/5
HELM-PAYNE	22/0	22/0
HERCULES	46/2	46/5
HEW-PACK	55/1	55/0
HEXCEL CP	34/1	34/2
HILLENBRND	26/7	26/7
HILLIN HTLS	49/4	49/1
HITACHI	129/0	129/0
HMTX INC	14/3	14/4
HNDY-HARM	18/5	18/5
HOLIDAY C	29/4	29/3
HOM DEPOT	33/3	33/4
HOMEPER CP	30/7	30/5
HONDA MOTR	0	157/2
HONEYWELL	63/7	63/7
HUGHES IN	48/5	48/5
HUGHES SUP	17/7	17/7
HUMANA INC	26/6	26/6
IBM	121/6	121/5
ICH PHARMA	6/4	6/4
ILLI PUR CO	17/4	17/4
ILLIN 4-08	0	19/0
INDIA GRO	9/5	9/5
INGRSL-R	37/0	36/7
JEFF PILOT	32/2	32/4
JER PR 8-5	0	79/6
JOHNSON CO	33/5	33/5
JOHNSON-JMS	87/0	86/7
K HART CP	37/4	37/4
KAN CI P-L	29/4	29/4
KELLOGG	60/2	60/3
KERR MCGEE	41/0	41/1
KEYSTONE	19/3	19/4
KIMB-CLARK	60/6	60/6
KLM R D AI	20/4	20/3
KR RID WND	47/0	46/6

International Bond Highlights

Interbank Rates

Interest Rates

BOMBAY

FOIA b 7

Week Market Report

AMBIAN

PHILIPPINES MAKATI

Makati Stock Market Report

PHILIPPINES MANILA

Manila Stock Market Report

SINGAPORE

Singapore Stock Market Report

KIWAFF

INTER.BK	0.069	0.069	0.
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He added that the bank also furnished \$211 million of interest

Currency rates

Arab Times Advertising
4816326/7

Dollar firms

Markets calmer as rate fears fade

LONDON, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Financial markets calmed down today as speculation of an imminent round of interest rate rises began to fade, dealers said.

The dollar and sterling firmed after Monday's falls.

Share prices edged higher, partly supported by a firmer close on Wall Street on Monday, although Tokyo, the world's largest stock market, dropped sharply earlier today.

By midday in Europe, the dollar and sterling were holding early gains.

Dealers said concern had eased that West Germany's Central Bundesbank would raise interest rates this week, which could have triggered another round of rate rises elsewhere.

Vulnerable

"There is less of a consensus it is likely to happen," one dealer at a US bank in London said.

Dealers said the pound was vulnerable to selling before Wednesday's British trade statistics for January.

In Frankfurt, the dollar closed higher at 1.8230 Deutsche marks against Monday's closing 1.8155. It was up also in Zurich at 1.5560 Swiss francs against 1.5513, in Paris at 6.2230 francs against 6.1770, in Brussels at 38.34 Belgian francs against 38.20, and in Milan at 1,349.55 lire against 1,339.25.

In London, however, the pound ended the day at \$1.7450 compared to \$1.7440 Monday.

Drop

Gold closed lower in Zurich, at \$387.00 per ounce against \$390.50 per ounce Monday, and in London, at \$387.00 per ounce against \$390.25.

Silver was lower at the end of trading in Zurich, at \$5.90 per ounce against \$5.95 per ounce Monday, and in London, at \$5.86 per ounce against \$5.92 per ounce.

Earlier, Tokyo shares fell sharply in late trade with the Nikkei Average posting its biggest drop this year.

Selling was sparked by falls in

yen bond prices due to the yen's decline against the dollar in Tokyo, brokers said.

The Nikkei fell 300.17 points, or 0.92 per cent, to 31,985.60, adding to Monday's 166.72-point drop.

Hong Kong was lower on a lack of buying interest but Australian stocks closed higher in Sydney.

Oil prices were almost unchanged from Monday in quiet business. The most widely traded crude, North Sea Brent blend, was quoted around \$16.45 a barrel for April loading.

The benchmark US Treasury 30-year bond was quoted in London around 98-13/32 per cent, yielding 9.15 per cent.

Down

In London, shares were mixed in quiet afternoon business with sentiment remaining overcast by tomorrow's UK January balance of payments data. Dealers said there was concern the data could trigger a base rate rise.

Lasmo shares were down 31p

to 432 on turnover of 4.4 million shares by 1547 GMT, depressed by news it set a rights issue to raise £158 million to help fund an agreed \$35 million acquisition of Thomson North Sea Holdings from International Thomson Organisation. By 1548 GMT the FTSE 100 was up 1.7 points at 1,998.4, having touched a high on the day of 2,002.3.

Eased

Dealers said selective buying after the Lasmo announcement and news of the UK's profits, which came at the upper end of expectations, helped lift prices soon after the opening.

STC shares drifted to stand a penny easier at 308, having touched a quoted high of 319 following its 1988 results, which showed a 22 pct rise in pretax profit to £230 million. By 1611 GMT just over seven million shares of the telephone cables to computers group had changed hands.

Oil shares fell in sympathy with Lasmo. Enterprise was down 10p to 525 while Burmah

ceased 3p to 535. Shell was off 1p to 365 ahead of final results scheduled for Thursday.

Unilever shares fell 13p to 523 on the day's highest turnover of 8.1 million shares by 1620 GMT. Dealers said the company's announcement of a 10 per cent rise in 1988 pretax profits to £1.45 billion was broadly within forecasts.

The shares also came under pressure after Unilever co-chairman Floris Maljers said he expected slower profit growth from the food to detergents group in 1989.

Insurance company Sun Alliance moved up 10p to 1,090, with analysts reporting modest buying ahead of next month's full year results. Sun Alliance is forecast to lift profits sharply in the absence of heavy weather damage claims during 1988.

Among other insurers, Commercial Union was down 2p to 384 and General Accident up 5p to 928 ahead of 1988 results due tomorrow. Royal, which reports on Thursday, was 1p up at 424.

American foreign trade gap widened in last quarter of '88

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28. (AP): The US foreign trade deficit worsened in the final three months of the year, climbing to \$32 billion, the government reported today.

The Commerce Department said the deficit from October through December swelled by 10 per cent from a third quarter deficit of \$29.17 billion.

In spite of the larger trade imbalance in the final three months of the year, the deficit for all of 1988 dropped by 21.7 per cent to \$126.5 billion, down from an all-time high of \$160.28 billion set in 1987.

While economists were pleased with the big improvement for the year, they expressed fears that the trade improvement may have stalled out because of the worsening of the imbalance in the fourth quarter.

The trade figures today confirmed an improvement already in the Commerce Department's monthly merchandise trade report. Those figures showed the

deficit declining to \$137.34 billion in 1988, down from \$170.3 billion in 1987.

The new report, which measures trade on a balance of payments basis, shows smaller figures because it subtracts shipping costs and military sales from the monthly numbers.

The government also showed a worsening in the trade deficit for the fourth quarter in the report on the gross national product released today. Unlike the other trade figures, the GNP trade figures remove the effects of inflation.

The report on merchandise trade on a balance of payments basis showed that both exports and imports reached record levels in the fourth quarter last year.

Exports increased \$2 billion to \$83.6 billion while imports climbed by \$4.8 billion to \$115.7 billion.

The trade deficit with Japan also set a record, climbing by \$3.2 billion to \$15.5 billion in the

fourth quarter.

For the year, the decline in the deficit to \$126.5 billion reflected a 28 per cent surge in export sales and a 9 per cent rise in imports.

Non-farm exports rose 28 per cent to \$61.6 billion with the largest increases in sales of US capital equipment and industrial supplies.

Agricultural exports shot up 30 per cent to \$38.3 billion, the highest level since 1984.

The largest increases were in sales of corn, which were up \$1.9 billion, reflecting higher sales to the Soviet Union, Japan and Taiwan, and in wheat, which also climbed by \$1.9 billion, reflecting higher shipments to China and the Soviet Union.

The higher farm sales reflected in part higher prices caused by the severe drought. The average price of corn was up 38 per cent for the year while the price of soybeans rose by 33 per cent, wheat prices were up 20 per cent and cotton prices rose 20 per cent.

Japan's Mitsubishi wins Kuwait contracts

MANAMA, Feb. 28. Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. has received power-plant contracts valued at \$1.1 billion from the Kuwait Ministry of Electricity and Water, banking and construction-industry sources said.

The power-plant contracts are the first step in a major development plan for Subiya, announced by the Kuwait government in January. Besides the power plant, the government has said it is studying construction of housing, light industry, recreation and other facilities in Subiya over the next 20 years, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Mitsubishi Heavy was among 11 Asian, European and US concerns bidding for a contract to supply boilers and among eight companies seeking to supply turbines for the 2,400-megawatt power-plant project.

The sources said Mitsubishi Heavy is also the first foreign concern to successfully bid on two large-scale Kuwait projects simultaneously.

Two other contracts — sewers and a desalination plant — are still pending. The sewer contract is estimated at \$520 million and the desalination plant at \$104 million.

Mitsubishi Heavy and the electricity ministry are expected to sign the power-plant contracts within the next two weeks, the sources said.

The electricity ministry notified the Japanese concern of its successful bids last month, they added.

Exact details of the loan discussions aren't currently available, but talk among bankers indicates that some form of turnkey financing to the Japanese concern will be arranged rather than a loan to the government.

National Bank of Kuwait, the nation's largest commercial bank, has secured performance bond and other related guaranty work from Mitsubishi Heavy

already, Kuwaiti bankers said.

National Bank of Kuwait declined, however, to comment on talk in Kuwaiti banking circles that it may be positioned to secure the lead role in providing financing for Mitsubishi Heavy because of its success in gaining the guaranty work and other forms of construction-credit business.

Bankers estimate that financing may cover only half of the total project costs, but the Kuwait banking industry still has been watching the Subiya project closely — largely because it is expected to represent a key source of secure loan revenue for at least the next 10 years.

The Subiya development project has been under study since 1982. Other phases of the Subiya development include a proposed causeway connecting Subiya to Kuwait's capital city across Kuwait Bay at a current estimated cost of \$1 billion.

Further studies on the causeway and other Subiya projects, however, are still pending, sources said.

\$18 price possible, says Boussena

ALGIERS, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Algerian Oil Minister Saddek Boussena said today that with the help of non-OPEC oil producers OPEC would be able to reach its \$18 a barrel target price before June.

"There is no reason why we cannot (reach the target price), none at all and before June," he told Reuters in an hour-long interview.

But Boussena stressed the need for the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to reach some form of production agreement with the major non-OPEC oil-producing nations which he said now had the power to stabilise or destabilise the market.

"It is necessary they now take the responsibility to stabilise the market for the well-being of everybody," he said.

He said it was not certain what form the co-operation would take and said a date for a ministerial meeting between the two groups had not yet been agreed. But he added it was time for non-OPEC countries to take firm action.

"It is clear that the market is waiting for a concrete decision from non-OPEC. It is necessary in order to arrive as quickly as possible at \$18."

Non-OPEC technical experts met in London on Feb. 21 and agreed cuts in production that

industry sources said would amount to about 200,000 barrels per day (BPD).

The cutback is likely to be offset by North Sea fields coming back on stream after a series of accidents last year. Experts say OPEC is also set to produce about one million BPD above demand in the second quarter of 1989.

The 40-year-old Boussena, the youngest member of a new government drawn up after bloody anti-austerity riots in October, declined to be drawn on the problems likely to face OPEC in the coming months.

"It is too soon," he said, stressing November's OPEC agreement fixing total output at 18.5 million BPD from January had only come into operation a few weeks ago.

Iraq and Kuwait have suggested a higher ceiling be fixed at the next OPEC ministerial meeting in June.

Confirming Algeria was producing at its quota level of 695,000 BPD, Boussena said he would wait and see what happened to the overall ceiling before deciding whether to seek a quota increase.

Over 90 per cent of Algeria's foreign currency earnings come from exports of oil and gas. Industry sources say oil revenues fell in 1988 to between seven and \$8 billion from \$10 billion in 1987.

Boussena said his main task would be to increase all categories of hydrocarbon exports to provide the base for recovery in the Algerian economy.

EEC aims to increase aid to Central America

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras, Feb. 28. (Reuters): European Economic Community ministers meeting with their Central American counterparts have backed a regional peace plan and said the EEC intends to increase aid to the five governments.

Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez said at the start of the two-day meeting yesterday there would be "substantial progress in the aid of the 12 (EEC states) to this region" if economic forecasts hold true.

Fernandez, spokesman for the EEC council of ministers, also spoke out in support of the plan to end civil wars in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala, but said: "It is not enough to arrive at Records. It is necessary to comply with them."

A draft final declaration supports an accord in El Salvador this month by Central American presidents, who agreed to draw up a plan by mid-May to disband the US-backed rebel army camped in Honduras in return for democratic reforms in Nicaragua.

The document says EEC aid will be given "without exclusions" to help economic development in all five nations.

The aid pledge was criticised by the Contras, who have been fighting a US-backed war against the leftist Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

Wilfredo Montalvan, one of seven Contra rebel leaders, arrived yesterday to urge the EEC to withhold aid to Nicaragua until Managua kept

promises of democracy.

Otherwise, he said, the Sandinistas would "consolidate a totalitarian regime, violating human rights and damaging to legitimate interests ... of neighbouring countries," he told Reuters.

"We are not going to give up our guns until there is democracy in Nicaragua," he added.

EEC aid in Central America is small compared with US support of El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Guatemala or Soviet aid to Nicaragua.

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Jordan to seek IMF credit

AMMAN, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Jordan will ask the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a standby credit and is working on a general restructuring of its foreign debt, a Central Bank official said today.

"We are working on a general restructuring and this will be subject to our discussions with the IMF and the World Bank," Central Bank deputy governor, Maher Shukri told Reuters.

Asked if Jordan had made a formal application for a standby IMF credit, he said: "Not yet, but it is going to be presented."

Shukri said Jordan was paying interest on all its commercial debt but was rolling over principal payments. Amman had fallen into arrears on some military and bilateral debt, he said.

Shukri said the standby credit could be up to 125 per cent of Jordan's IMF quota of 75 million special drawing rights (about \$100 million).

An IMF team is due in Amman in the middle of March. A World Bank team, which included IMF observers, was here this month.

Shukri said the World Bank team had been "doing their homework" ahead of negotiations on a structural adjustment loan, but it was too early to talk of amounts or conditions.

He said Jordan might not have to reschedule its foreign debt, which Prime Minister Zaid Al Riqa has said amounts to just under \$6 billion. "We might talk of refinancing and avoid rescheduling," he said without elaboration.

Egypt to hike its oil prices

CAIRO, Feb. 28. (AP): Egypt decided today to increase its crude oil export prices for the first half of March by 15 cents a barrel for all grades, a senior oil ministry official said.

Hamman Ayoub, the ministry's foreign sales director, said Egypt also has decided to decrease oil exports by five per cent under an agreement by non-OPEC producers in a meeting in London on Feb. 21.

He did not say exactly how much that would amount to, but the Middle East Economic Survey, published in Nicosia, reported yesterday that Egypt's cut amounts to 24,000 barrels a day.

The new price for a barrel of Egypt's crude Gulf of Suez blend is \$15.90, for Belawan \$14.05, for Ras Badran \$12.90 and for Ras Ghareb \$12.80.

Rodenstock for Kuwait

DR Rolf Rodenstock, former president of the Federal Republic of Germany's Association of German Industry and a leading figure in the country's commercial society, will visit Kuwait today on a tour through the Gulf.

During his five-year presidency, Dr Rodenstock played a leading role in establishing the Association of German Industry's present status.

The name of his company, Rodenstock, is world-renowned as a Munich-based quality producer of ophthalmologic lenses and other optical high precision equipment. The company was founded over 90 years ago and is steadily flourishing.

Dr Rodenstock will host a press conference at the Kuwait International Hotel from 11.00 am to 12.00 noon. He will depart for Frankfurt early Thursday.

Railway freight hike may spur inflation

BOMBAY, February 28: The railway budget evoked mixed reactions in Bombay.

While the suburban commuters expressed relief that they were spared from the hike in fares, representatives of the business community felt that the 11 per cent hike in freight could have a spiralling inflationary effect on the economy, according to the Economic Times.

Predictably, the opposition party leaders, trade unionists and consumer organisations criticised the railway budget as they feared a further price rise would burden the already harassed common man.

Facilities

The Bombay Goods Transport Association vice-president S.M. Jalal, said overall the budget was good but the railway minister should have thought of providing more facilities for second class passengers.

Vijay Kalantri, president of the All India Association of Industries, congratulated the railway minister for achieving a surplus of Rs84.29 crores against the budget estimate of Rs 60 crores during 1987-88 after payment of full dividend of Rs 638.86 crores to the general revenue.

He also welcomed mobilisation of higher internal resources

and optimum utilisation of the system in passenger and freight traffic. The railway's internal contribution to the 7th plan has also gone up.

Problems

S.V. Shidore, president, Bombay Commuters' Council, and L.K. Pande, general secretary, BCC, observed that the 11 per cent hike in the freight charges is yet another blow for consumers. They thought that the promise of introduction of an additional 27 local fares or electric multiple units (EMUs) will not solve the commuters' problems.

Balkrishna P. Gupta, president of the Passengers' and Traffic Relief Association, termed it as an "election budget". But he welcomed concessions given to honoured military and police personnel and their widows, sportsmen and to the aged.

Gregory D'Souza, general secretary, Rail Yatri Sangh has also welcomed the budget, particularly introduction of 15 new trains in the summer time table.

M.D. Ranade, secretary general, National Federation of Railway Users, thought that the minister should have spared more funds for rolling stocks with a view to render efficient and quick services to passengers and industry.

The Passengers' and Traffic

Relief Association said the railway budget was a simple "election budget."

The Bombay Truck Owners Organisation said the freight rise would generate an element of inflation which was no longer justified.

Arvind Joshi, president of Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce observed that features like maintaining passenger amenities and more attention to the safety measures should be welcomed. But he expressed concern over the 11 per cent freight hike, which could lead to inflation.

Dr Ram S. Tarneja, president, Indian Merchants' Chamber, has said that the railway minister, Madhavrao Scindia, has presented a surplus budget of Rs 140 crores for 1989-90, but this has been arrived at by imposing a heavy burden of Rs 876 crores in the form of increase in goods, parcel and luggage rates. And though the fares are not increased, the record imposed on goods traffic is likely to flare up inflationary forces within the economy.

Allocation

Dr Tarneja observed that the annual plan for the railways for 1989-90 has been fixed at Rs4,450 crores. With this total allocation during the seventh plan the budget year 1989-90 synchronised with the terminal

year of the Seventh Plan. He therefore felt it appropriate to briefly review the overall performance of the Indian Railways in regard to the objectives set at the beginning of the plan.

The main thrust of the Seventh Plan was towards the optimisation of asset utilisation, increased staff productivity and the rehabilitation and modernisation of the system.

Strides

"The Indian Railways have made significant strides in each of these thrust areas, greatly easing the freight transport constraints in the economy," Scindia said.

He said the cumulative effect of all the measures and the resultant increase in transport output was duly reflected in the financial results.

"In the first three years of the Seventh Plan, the Indian Railways paid their full dividend to the general revenue, aggregating to about Rs 1,725 crores, and also recorded a surplus exceeding the estimates in each year."

As regard the financial performance in 1988-89, Scindia said the reduced offering of traffic due to flood had its effect on earnings. However, every attempt being made to bridge this gap by maximising the revenue effort in other areas, he said and assured the house:

Ramadan in Turkey to discuss economic ties

ANKARA, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan arrived in Turkey for a three-day official visit to discuss bilateral relations and economic co-operation. Turkish officials said today.

Ramadan and Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal will discuss bilateral relations, international issues and the ground covered by a mixed economic committee currently meeting in Ankara.

"We observe with pleasure that relations with Iraq, a valuable regional country, are progressing towards a constructive co-operation," Ozal told reporters after he met Ramadan at Ankara airport.

Co-operation

There were extensive opportunities for co-operation between Iraq and Turkey, Ramadan said.

A Turkish Foreign Ministry statement said Turkey was pleased with the level of its economic relations with Iraq and was

seeking ways of increased co-operation in economic, technical, agricultural and scientific matters.

Turkey suspended credits to Baghdad in April last year after Iraq's bilateral trade debts rose to \$2.7 billion.

New credit terms and ceilings were likely to be discussed in Ramadan's talks with Ozal, official sources said.

Exports

Turkey, which buys about 65 per cent of its crude oil needs from Iraq, is seeking to increase its exports to \$1 billion this year from \$936 million in the first 11 months of 1988.

Turkey remained neutral during the Iran-Iraq war and maintained good trade relations with both neighbours.

Two pipelines carrying Iraqi crude oil from Kirkuk oil fields to export jetties on Turkey's Mediterranean coast have reached a capacity of 1.4 million barrels per day, the ministry statement said.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Brisk trading in resources stocks underpinned a revival on the Australian share market as the weaker local currency encouraged offshore investors. The All-Ordinaries index rose 13.0 to 1,483.4.

TOKYO: Share prices fell sharply in late trade, with the main Nikkei index posting its biggest drop this year, to end below \$2,000 for the first time since last Tuesday. The Nikkei index fell 300.17 to 31,985.60.

HONG KONG: Prices tested lows in lively trade with sentiment fragile on fears of interest rate rises and overseas market performance. The Hang Seng was down 50 to 3,012.68.

SINGAPORE: Nervousness over interest rate increases and the poor performance of major overseas bourses sparked stop-loss selling, pushing prices sharply lower.

BOMBAY: Share prices attracted scattered profit-taking in volatile pre-budget trading as investors preferred to limit their positions, brokers said.

FRANKFURT: Shares ended a moderate session broadly firmer as the market's worries about higher domestic interest rates receded. The Dax index closed at 1,288.66, 11.86 points up from yesterday's close.

ZURICH: Shares closed firmer across the board as fresh demand at yesterday's sharply lower levels drove up prices. The All-Share Swiss index added 6.6 points to 955.6.

PARIS: Shares ended at day's highs in moderate trading, buoyed by short-covering on blue chips but with activity centred on Cde du Midi and BSN. The 50-share indicator ended 2.35 per cent up.

LONDON: Shares were mixed in quiet afternoon business with sentiment overshadowed by tomorrow's UK January balance of payments data. By 1548 GMT the FTSE 100 was up 1.7 points at 1,998.4.

NEW YORK: Stocks were higher with gains centred in the blue chips but were no longer rising in late morning. Treasuries were firmer in quiet trading.

Tourism fuels Seychelles economic boom

VICTORIA, Seychelles, Feb. 28. (Reuters): The idyllic, sun-bathed and almost magical Seychelles islands depend on tens of thousands of wealthy tourists.

They have fuelled the archipelago's boom at a time when most economies of the Third World are in a turmoil.

With virtually no natural resources to depend upon the Seychelles' socialist government of President Albert Rene has had to somewhat tone down its previous left-wing rhetoric to try to woo the visitors, most of them from Britain, the United States, West Germany, Italy and South Africa.

In 1988, 77,050 tourists visited the Seychelles, a group of more than 100 coral and granite islands 1,000 km (625 miles) off the East African coast, earning the country about 500 million rupees (\$100 million) nearly 40 per cent of gross national product.

Forecast

The 1988 figure represented an increase of 16 per cent over 1987 and was the driving force behind the island's 6.1 per cent real economic growth last year. Government officials forecast this will

again be achieved, if not exceeded, in 1989.

The islands' economic growth has averaged about four per cent annually in the past four years.

"We don't go for mass tourism, but for selected groups who have a high spending capacity," Kate Carolus, marketing director of the Tourism Department, told Reuters.

"We believe in providing quality service and have this added thing going for us — the unique beauty of the islands, the unspoiled beaches and the year-round sunshine," she said.

Double

Her department is working on plans to nearly double the number of hotel beds in the Seychelles by adding another 4,000 by 1992, when the country hopes to cater for 125,000 tourists who are expected to bring in \$575.5 million rupees (\$117.5 million).

Carolus said the figure of 125,000 was the maximum that the Seychelles could cater for without straining the island's resources.

"Thereafter, we shall limit the number of tourists as we may not cope," she said, interviewed in the fading brown coloured

independence house, seat to most government departments in the capital Victoria, which blends "spectacularly well with the white and brown sands of the beaches."

Environment

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Absence of pain does not rule out this disease

Myths and facts about endometriosis

By Janice Mininberg

If you are of childbearing age, have you experienced any of these symptoms?

- Pain during menstruation
- Pain during ovulation
- Painful sex
- Low energy, fatigue
- Light-headedness during menstruation
- Leg cramps, pain, or discomfort around the inner thighs
- Diarrhoea, constipation, or intestinal upset during menstruation
- Inability to conceive
- Heavy or irregular bleeding
- Lower-back pain

Even if you answered no to all these questions, you could still have endometriosis! Absence of pain does not rule out this disease, which is found in millions of people.

Falsely labelled "the career woman's disease," endometriosis is the adherence and growth of the uterine lining (endometrium) outside the uterus. The actual cause is not known, but there are several theories.

Reflux is the first: Evidence strongly suggests that during menstruation, fragments of the uterine lining flow back through the fallopian tubes into the pelvic cavity.

Here, the displaced endometrial cells implant themselves at a variety of sites outside the uterus, growing, thickening, and sloughing off with each menstrual cycle. Unable to exit through the vagina, the blood and tissue spread throughout the pelvic cavity — adhering to, and often covering, the reproductive organs, intestines, and bowel. Result: menstrual disorders, pain, and/or infertility.

The second theory implicates the lymphatic system: Wrapped around the uterus are small lymphatic capillaries; the fluid in these capillaries flows in only one direction, toward the heart. Endometrial cells on the outside of the uterus are absorbed and travel in the lymphatic fluid to the large veins.

There, the fluid and the endometrial cells it carries converge with the bloodstream. Once in the heart, the endometrial cells travel into the lungs, then back into the heart, and finally out of the heart again to other organs of the body. That would account for the rare occurrence of endometriosis in distant, unusual sites: lungs, armpits, elbows, kidneys, ureters (the tubes that carry urine from the kidney to the bladder), groin, and lymph nodes.

The third theory suggests that during the development of the foetus, a genetic-code mutation signals the relocation of endometrial tissue outside the uterus. It is not until puberty that this mutation causes the growth and spread of endometrial tissue inside the pelvic cavity. Because the genetic-code change is permanent, endometriosis is hereditary.

Diagnosis

Some researchers believe the cause of endometriosis may be found in immunology. Says Carol J. Chacho, reproductive endocrinologist in Bridgeport, Connecticut: "If every woman has endometrial tissue backing up through the tubes, why does it implant in some women and not in the majority? Is there any difference between the immunology of women with endometriosis and women without?" A recent study found that T-lymphocytes can attack and kill displaced endometrial cells — were less active in endometriosis patients. What causes this difference? Research in immunology and endometriosis is still in its

Falsely labelled 'the career woman's disease,' endometriosis is the adherence and growth of the uterine lining outside the uterus. The actual cause is not known but there are several theories and choices of treatment.



Loss of energy and stomach cramps is one symptom of endometriosis.

infancy; only further studies will give an answer.

A gynaecologist performing an internal pelvic exam for endometriosis checks for nodules, tenderness, and possible ovarian cysts. (If the doctor strongly suspects endometriosis — and if the woman plans to have children — he or she will probably recommend the patient start her family as soon as possible. The only way the exact stage of endometriosis (mild, moderate, severe, or extensive) can be diagnosed is with a laparoscopy.

This procedure may require an overnight hospital stay or it can be done in an outpatient clinic. While the patient is under general anaesthesia, a small incision is made through the navel so the laparoscope, a thin telescopic instrument, can enter to view the pelvic cavity. Looking through the laparoscope, the doctor checks the reproductive organs

Another myth, unfortunately still echoed by some doctors, is 'have a baby, it will cure endometriosis'... this is often ridiculous since endometriosis is one of the leading causes of infertility. It is estimated that 40 to 50 per cent of women with endometriosis are infertile.

and the surrounding area. A biopsy of tissue is usually performed to ensure an accurate diagnosis.

When a laparoscopy isn't done, the doctor should be totally sure that the patient's clinical history includes the classic symptoms — painful intercourse, severe pain, and painful bowel movements during menstruation — before prescribing hormonal treatment.

Endometriosis is common, and according to the medical adage, "common things occur commonly, uncommon things occur uncommonly." To rule out other diseases, a doctor must take into consideration the patient's age and clinical and family his-

tory. Diseases with similar symptoms, such as cancer of the ovary, peritoneum, bowel, or bladder, usually don't appear until a woman is in her forties and, even then, are considered uncommon. Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) has symptoms similar to endometriosis too, but unlike endometriosis, PID is not cyclical. In the past, doctors (thinking endometriosis rare), used to treat the disease as if it were PID, but the use of the laparoscope has proved to the medical world just how extensive endometriosis really is.

Ovarian Cysts
Many women with endometriosis also suffer from ovarian cysts. There are three basic types: follicle, which contains clear fluid; dermoid, a usually non-malignant cystic tumour containing hair, teeth, or skin; and endometrioma, also known as "chocolate cysts," filled with dark brown blood.

Myths
It is often said that aggressive women of high socio-economic status are most likely to get endometriosis, but this is false.

The label career woman's disease probably stems from the fact that many career women do defer pregnancy, which can increase their chances of contracting the disease. This woman may be at risk, but she is not the only one who will get endometriosis!

Another myth, unfortunately still echoed by some doctors, is "Have a baby, it will cure endometriosis." During pregnancy, the estrogen/progesterone levels in the body increase, stopping menstruation and causing a reduction in the size of displaced endometrial cells.

This may, however, prove to be only a temporary halt, and it is not uncommon for a woman who already has two or three children to find herself experiencing the symptoms of endometriosis again. (Also, the advice to have a baby is often ridiculous, since endometriosis is one of the leading causes of infertility! It is estimated that 40 to 50 per cent of women with endometriosis are infertile.)

ford, Connecticut. "The laser is able to vapourise tissue with precision and can reach areas of poor visibility or accessibility by bouncing the laser beam from a mirror to the desired target."

Hormonal Treatment
There are two types of hormonal treatment for endometriosis. One is an estrogen and progesterone compound — the Pill — which simulates pregnancy by putting the ovaries to "sleep" and stopping periods.

The Pill is taken for about six to nine months nonstop. The other is danazol, a synthetic male hormone, which is the opposite of the Pill. It lowers the level of estrogen in the body to create a "pseudomenopausal" state. Some women on danazol get hot flashes, while others may experience a decrease in breast size, but these side effects stop as soon as danazol is discontinued. The problem with hormonal treatment: a high recurrence rate of endometriosis (40 to 50 per cent) after treatment.

The treatment followed often depends on the reproductive status of the patient. If she is in debilitating pain and has completed her family, hysterectomy and removal of the ovaries are usually recommended. If, however, she is in the process of trying to conceive — and her main problem is infertility — she may be given danazol for several months. After stopping the danazol, she can try again to become pregnant.

Most difficult to treat is the eighteen-year-old who is in pain and has no immediate desire to get married and have a family. Danazol or estrogen/progesterone can be given, but there's a chance the disease will return in a year's time. If the pain becomes too great, her doctor may suggest conservative surgery, entering the abdominal cavity and removing as much endometrial tissue as can be found. The hope then is that endometriosis will not return for about five years.

Hysterectomy is the last resort, especially for a single woman who hopes to have children in the future.

Who's at risk?
Because of the wide-spread belief that arthritis is a sign of old age, younger people think it can't happen to them.

But most people wait four years from the time they start having minor joint discomfort until they finally seek help, thereby suffering needless pain and risking debilitating damage. "The earlier a diagnosis is made and treatment begun, the greater the likelihood of minimising joint damage," says Dr Fries, author of *Arthritis: A Comprehensive Guide*.

Current research
"This is an optimistic time in arthritis research," says Paul Plotz, M.D., chief of Connective Tissue Diseases at the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, in Bethesda, Md. Current research suggests that most of the arthritic disease caused by various agents. "It may even be possible to identify those agents soon," notes Dr Plotz.

Studies also show that a patient's attitude plays a large role in how successful treatment will be. "Optimism seems to turn on certain brain hormones that have an effect on inflammatory and pain mechanisms," says Dr Roth.

Treatment update
While arthritis can't be cured, symptoms can be relieved with aspirin or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory prescription drugs. But, in high doses, these can cause serious gastric bleeding. To reduce the risk, some physicians are turning to other medications: one (salsate) doesn't block prostaglandins, the stomach's protective substance; another (diclofenac sodium) is eliminated quickly from the bloodstream and urine before irritation can occur.

Methotrexate, a potent drug used to treat psoriasis or certain cancers, will soon be approved for use in some rheumatoid arthritis patients. In very small doses the drug reduces pain and inflammation with fewer toxicity problems.

There are as many quick treatments for arthritis as there are legitimate ones. Copper bracelets are not harmful, but other, "miracle cures" may be especially if they are used instead of proven treatments. And exercise, though beneficial, may be counterproductive if not done properly.

Who's at risk?
Because of the wide-spread belief that arthritis is a sign of old age, younger people think it can't happen to them.

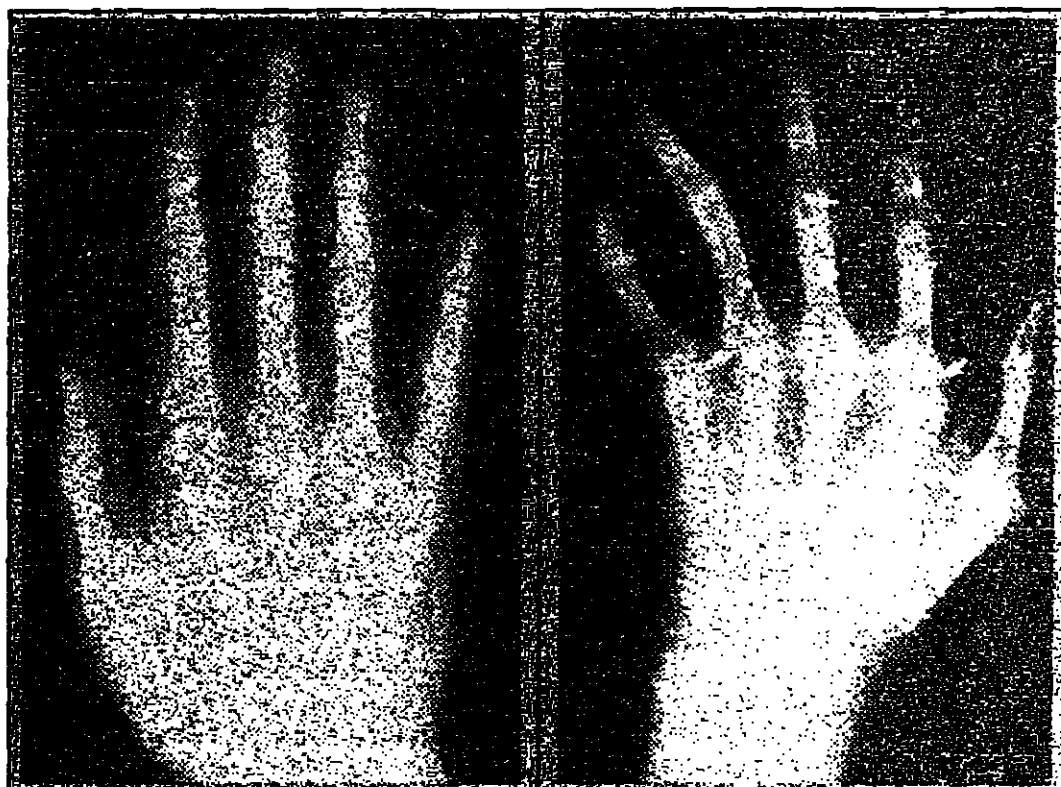
But it does happen to people under age 45. "While osteoarthritis sets in after age 60, other types — such as rheumatoid arthritis and lupus erythematosus — have a much earlier age of onset. What's

more, they strike women far more often than men," says Dr Roth.

Arthritis: early diagnosis essential
By Sue Berkman
ARTHRITIS has long been thought of as an untreatable disease that strikes older people.

Today experts know this notion couldn't be further from the truth. For one thing, arthritis — which literally means joint inflammation — is not one single disease; the term actually encompasses more than 125 different disorders of the joints and connective tissue, ranging from tendinitis and bursitis to gout and autoimmune disease.

Furthermore, the severe pain and deformity that often accompany arthritis are not inevitable, says James Fries, M.D., chief of the Arthritis Clinic at Stanford University in Stanford, Calif. "Arthritis can be prevented in many cases and effective treatment is available for all forms of the disease."



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But it does happen to people under age 45. "While osteoarthritis sets in after age 60, other types — such as rheumatoid arthritis and lupus erythematosus — have a much earlier age of onset. What's

Middle-age spread? It's in the mind



Jane Fonda: 52

MIDDLE-AGE spread, apparently, is all in the mind. The problem isn't physical but simply psychological, say a group of American scientists.

People only get fat because they believe that advancing years inevitably thicken the waist and consequently take things more slowly.

But the easier you take things, the faster your body ages, according to new evidence from the United States.

The researchers, however, have come up with the cheering news for the over-40s that exercise can help you hang on longer to the physique you had at 20.

The findings, by a team from the US Human Nutrition Research Centre, give scientific backing to the belief long held by

US researchers have come up with the cheering news for the over-40s that exercise can help you hang on longer to the physique you had at 20. The body ages faster because people stop exercising, says a team from the US Human Nutrition Research Centre.



Joan Collins: 55

among the most fully fit in either age group.

"He had the physique of a 20-year-old in his prime."

While the body will certainly lose muscle mass with age, physical activity can compensate for this, the researchers found.

The project will only help to fuel the keep-fit cult that has swept America and Britain in the past few years.

Both men and women have been inspired by the example of people like Joan Collins, in her 50s, who have proved that healthy living and exercise can stave off the wrinkles.

But to most people the greatest example of the virtues of physical activity is the woman credited with starting the exercise fad with her famous workout burn — film star Jane Fonda, now 52.

Alzheimer's disease: new research pinpoints causes

By Peter Wright

SCIENTISTS have discovered that the early onset of Alzheimer's disease in people in their 40s and 50s is an inherited genetic disorder.

They have also found new evidence that implicates aluminium contamination in the environment as a possible factor in its cause among people over 60 who develop the illness prematurely.

More than 250,000 people succumb to this form of premature ageing, with associated loss of memory.

The latest results were presented by leading researchers from Britain and the United States to a conference at Imperial College in London, called to examine the possible link between Alzheimer's and the levels of aluminium in drinking water.

Aluminium sulphate is used as pre-treatment process in areas where water is heavily contaminated by peat.

The new methods of genetic engineering devised through diagnosis of inherited disorders in children have been adapted by several groups of scientists in studying families that seem to be predisposed to the early development of Alzheimer's.

Dr John Hardy, from the department of biochemistry, neurology and anatomy at St Mary's Hospital, London, said when Alzheimer's occurred in brothers and sisters in a family known to be at risk of inheriting the early type, it struck them all at the same age.

He cited a family in which at the age of 42, the onsets of the condition occurred within two years.

In another family it struck at around 54. One of the families studied had 16 members who also succumbed to the condition at the same age.

Timing

The timing for families at genetic risk is so precise — "like a metronome," according to Dr Hardy — that relatives who do not contract the condition have then outlived the risk.

The latest results of the studies of the links between traces of aluminium in the brain and Alzheimer's came from Professor John Edvardson, of the medical research council's neurochemical pathology unit, Newcastle upon Tyne General Hospital.

His group first observed 1. Britain that brain tissue of Alzheimer victims in areas supplied by water treated for high peat content contained traces of aluminium in damaged nerve cells that are characteristic of the disease.

The question of how that dangerous metal, which has no useful biological purpose, could cross the protective blood-brain barrier has caused as much concern as its possible role in provoking the disease.

Professor Edvardson has provided the evidence showing how aluminium can become bound to an important molecule in the blood, called transferrin, that is normally a carrier of essential biological substances to brain tissues. Although the aluminium is found in damaged brain cells, he suggests it may be implicated indirectly in the development of the disease by interfering with the production of one of the key molecules of then brain.

Disorder
The latest evidence has come from patients who have received exceptional doses of aluminium, hundreds of times higher than in water supplies, because they have been on renal dialysis.

Their kidney disorder, for which they need dialysis, also prevents them from getting rid of aluminium from their body. Some of it accumulates in the brain.

Dr Peter Lee, a consultant specialising in the pattern of Alzheimer's disease, said it still had to be shown that aluminium in water supplies could in some way become "exceptionally bioavailable" to be absorbed into the brain.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By Dr Allan Bruckheim

ARTERY CONDITION AFFECTS EXTREMITIES

QUESTION: I just couldn't understand what my doctor tried to tell me about my condition while I was in his office, but I know I can turn to you for further explanation. Would you please tell me about Peripheral Vascular Disease? All I am sure of is that it affects my arteries.

ANSWER: Here is a case where the name of the condition does a fair job of describing its nature.

The word "peripheral" applies to the "outer" portions of our bodies, thus the arms and legs. Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD) encompasses a number of long-term or chronic diseases of the arms or legs that arise from the fact that the arteries that bring blood to these areas have narrowed due to disease and fail to provide sufficient blood supply.

The most common cause of this narrowing is arteriosclerosis, which accounts for almost 95 per cent of all cases. Older people are the most common victims since PVD usually strikes after the age of 50, and men are the sufferers 6-to-7 times more frequently than women. A high number of PVD patients are smokers (almost 90 per cent) and about 25 per cent of all patients have diabetes.

But our old enemies, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and high weight, do their share of the damage as well, causing arteriosclerosis, not only in the peripheral arteries, but the vessels in the brain and heart as well. The most common symptom of PVD is pain that grabs at the calves of the legs after a short stroll, but eases up when the effort is stopped. Arms and legs feel cold, wounds take longer to heal, and gangrene may develop in the final stages of the disease.

While the physician may prescribe medications to help the blood circulate, and reduce cholesterol, there is much you must do for yourself. Smoking must go, absolutely, and a regular walking programme should be developed and carried out regularly. Good foot hygiene is a must: wear clean socks and comfortable shoes, and pay attention to toenails, corns and calluses. Surgical procedures do exist to widen the arteries, or replace those that are totally blocked, but you have a 75 per cent chance of bringing the condition under control by following a regimen outlined by your doctor.

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW: More than 40 million teeth are

extracted each year and many of these teeth could be saved, according to the American Association of Endodontists.

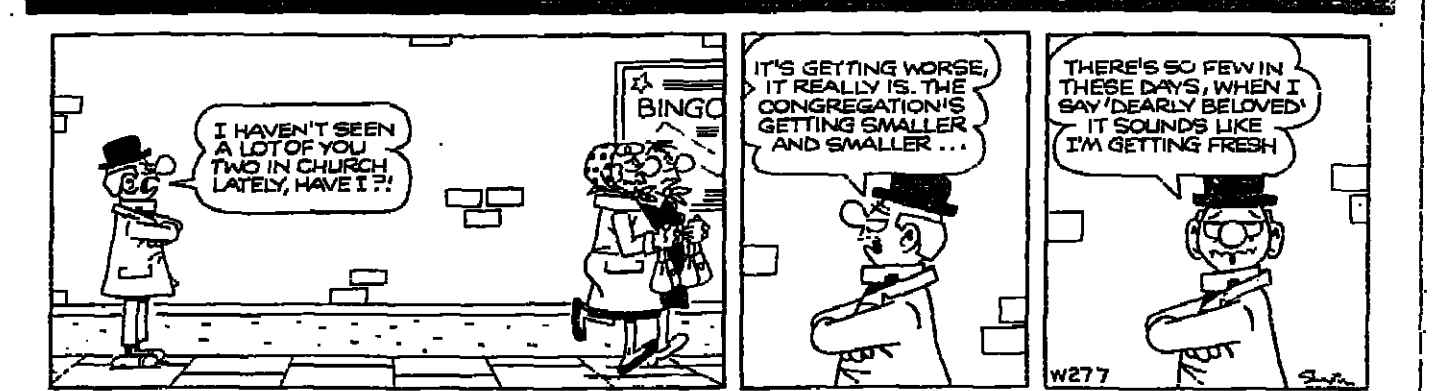
"People should think of losing an arm or leg," according to Dr Joseph D. Maggio, president of the association of dentists who specialize in root canal dentistry. As a patient you have the right to know why an extraction is necessary, what the consequences are as well as any possible alternative treatments.

While many teeth can't be saved because of extensive disease, modern techniques and anaesthetics make it possible to save badly damaged teeth that were hopeless just a few years ago. Dr Maggio also tells us that "losing just one tooth can lead to shifting teeth, periodontal disease and other problems."

You can obtain important "Tooth Savings Tips" without charge by sending a stamped, self-addressed business envelope to the American Association of Endodontists, Suite 1501, Dept. AB, 211 East Chicago Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611. It is well worth writing for.

ANDY CAPP

By Smith



ARAB TIMES Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION

Available

SALMIYA, near the Pakistani and Indian schools. Small furnished room with kitchen and tele facilities for a single working lady. Rent KD45. Tel. 5654307. (AT3-46211-3)

KUWAIT City, Sharq, near the Fingerprint Office. One room for 2 bachelors. To share with an Indian family. Rent KD65. Tel. 2401639. (AT4-46246-2)

SALMIYA, opp. Whitmore Restaurant, near the Indian school. Flat No. 10, 3rd floor. Two bedrooms flat for immediate possession. Contact Sawe personally. after 6 pm only. (AT4-46237-2)

KUWAIT City, Sharq, behind the Firdous cinema. Clean and spacious rooms for families. Tel. 2401332. (AT3-46220-3)

SALWA, near the police station, fully furnished accommodation, for a couple or working girls. Tel. 5624303, after 2 pm. (AT5-46247-2)

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SALWA, Area 6, Street 2, House 19. Deluxe flat (3rd floor) with 3 bedrooms, dining room, sitting room, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and tele. CAC, preferably for a European family. Tel. 5618727. 4-11 pm. (AT5-46257-3)

YARMOUK, deluxe CAC, fully furnished ground floor of villa with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living and dining area, large fitted kitchen, beautiful garden and covered car park. Rent KD500. Tel. 5382783. (AT3-46232-3)

KUWAIT City, Sharq, large Arabic house with 12 bedrooms, 3 toilets and 3 bathrooms, suitable for bachelors. Tel. 2533404. (AT5-46253-3)

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FOR SALE

Cars

RANGE Rover 3500 SE 1983, white, in good condition. Owner leaving. KD1800 ono. Tel. 2450299, after 6 pm. (AT5-46243-3)

HONDA Accord 1983, automatic, registered upto Nov 1989 with sunroof, AC and stereo, engine in excellent condition. KD750. Tel. Mr. Akbar, 2463220/1, 2465160, 2402582, res after 7.30 pm. (AT3-46207-3)

PORSCHE 928 S. 1981, in very good condition. Tel. 5734676. (AT4-46231-2)

TOYOTA Cressida GL 1984 model, fully automatic, in excellent condition. Cash or instalments. Tel. 2401516. (AT5-46260-2)

OLDSMOBILE 98, 1984 model, fully automatic, with AC and sunroof, in excellent condition. KD2150, best offer. Tel. 9020287, 2440409. (AT5-46261-3)

BMW 520i, 1982, excellent throughout with full BMW service history. KD1800. Tel. 3722797. (AT5-46235-2)

NISSAN Liberty, 1984, automatic, 60,000 kms, golden/red, insured up to Sept 1989, with AC and 4 doors. KD1,000—KD49 by instalments for 24 months. Tel. 5385094. (AT3-46205-3)

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Available domestic labourers from Philippines, India and Sri Lanka. Cooks, tailors, maids, painters, mechanics, electricians, drivers, tanners and all types of labourers.
Tel. 4746797 / 4887592 (AT3-46205-3)

SAAB 900 Turbo, Oct '87, graphite metallic, insured up to Oct '89, 26,000 kms, personal reasons for sale of immaculate machine. Tel. 2433986, 8am-5pm. (AT3-46208-3)

MITSUBISHI Galant, 1986, manual, dark green, with AC, just 41,000 kms, in very good condition. KD1500, Tel. Leo, 2453830-2, 8.30am-4.30pm. (AT3-46213-3)

VOLVO 240GL 1985, automatic with AC, 65,000 kms, metallic blue. KD1950. Tel. 2421748, 8 am - 3 pm only. (AT3-ADN-TM-3)

CHRYSLER Laser 1986, with 2 doors, hardtop, 42,000 kms, black metallic, full options, in very good condition. Tel. 5734676. (AT4-46231-2)

MERCEDES 230E 1982, red with beige leather interior, very clean, one owner full options, KD3,000 (fixed). Tel. 5382658/9. (AT3-46209-3)

Miscellaneous

MARSHALL fridge, freezer, cooker and IKEA cupboard for sale. Tel. 5389873. (AT3-46206-3)

SHARQ, one bedroom CAC apartment for sale. Asking KD300. Rent KD160 per month. Tel. Mr. John, 4834807, 4839265, 8 am - 5 pm. (AT5-46255-3)

VILLA, very attractive, on 1000 sqm in London with 5 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms for sale. For details tele. Mr. A. Shaheen, 2409686/4. (AT3-46217-3)

REQUIRED Chief Cooks & Assistant chief cooks
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SPORTS

HOCKEY

Unity crush World Stars for semifinals

UNITY reached the semifinals of the Champions Trophy hockey tournament with a 4-0 victory over World Stars at the Ahmadi hockey grounds earlier this week.

Bobby opened the scoring for Unity with a goal from a difficult angle in the early stages of the first half. The half-time score remained 1-0.

Just after the interval, Ifthikhar made it 2-0 for Unity when he dribbled past a number of World Stars defenders and beat the rival goalkeeper.

Khalid got the third goal off a penalty corner while Ifthikhar scored his second goal a few minutes later to complete the tally.

In an earlier match, the junior string of Kuwait Independents sprang a surprise when they downed much fancied Punjab XI to make the semifinals of the Punjab Trophy.

Punjab dominated the match but won by a solitary goal scored by Mario off a penalty corner.

Announced

In the last match of the day, Flying Arrows also entered the semifinals of the Punjab Trophy when they beat Kuwait Independents 5-3 in a tie-breaker.

Meanwhile, the organisers of the six-a-side tournament for the Kuwait Independents Cup announced yesterday that the event would start on March 5.

All teams taking part in this tournament have been asked to be at the ground by 8.30 am, when the draws would be held. Late arrivals will be eliminated in the draws. The organisers have also asked the teams to confirm their participation.

The game between Al Hilal and Kuwait Independents Black has, meanwhile, been postponed to March 10. This Friday Kuwait Independents Gold take on Flying Arrows at 3.00 pm.

Kalambay set to fight Nunn for IBF title

ROME, Feb 28. (Reuters) Italian middleweight Sumbi Kalambay will defy the World Boxing Association (WBA) and go to the United States tomorrow to fight American Michael Nunn for his International Boxing Federation (IBF) world title.

Kalambay stands to be stripped of his WBA crown unless he first fights official WBA contender Herol Graham of Britain, but the Italian's manager, Ennio Galeazzi, said he was unconcerned.

"It doesn't matter. We're going ahead in America with the IBF fight. We'll have one title anyway. We'll still be world champion," he said.

Scheduled

Galeazzi added that with a challenger's purse of more than \$750,000 for the Nunn fight, scheduled for Las Vegas on March 25, Kalambay could not afford to pass it up.

Galeazzi said he had had no official word from the WBA that Kalambay would lose his crown if he fights Nunn.

But a senior Italian Boxing Federation source said such a move was probable because WBA rules required Kalambay first to make an obligatory defence against Graham.

Zaire-born Kalambay beat Graham for the European crown in 1987 and won the vacant WBA middleweight title the same year against American Iran Barkley.

Kim ready to defend crown

TOKYO, Feb 28. (AP) World Boxing Council flyweight champion Kim Yong-Kang of South Korea said today he is ready to defend his title against Leopard Takakuma of Japan.

The 12-round title bout is scheduled Sunday at the 4,000-seat Aomori Prefectural Gymnasium in Aomori, about 550 kilometres (330 miles) north of Tokyo.

The champion's manager, Kim Choi-Ho, quoted Kim, 24, as saying after a two-round public sparring session in Tokyo that "I am all right and am ready for the fight. I will never lose my title."

Decision

About 30 reporters and photographers watched the sparring.

This will be Kim's second defence of the title he won from Sot Chitalada of Thailand by unanimous decision in South Korea last July 24.

Takakuma's manager, Yoshinori Takahashi, who watched Kim sparring, said, "Kim's right straight and uppercut blows seemed to be strong. But Takakuma can win if his strong short straight accurately hit the champion."

Takakuma, 25, is the WBC's No.5 contender.

KIWI BATSMEN HOLD OFF IMRAN & CO.

New Zealand hold Pakistan to draw

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Feb 28. (Reuters) New Zealand cricketers salvaged a draw from their third and final Test against Pakistan today.

The result brought the series to a nil-nil draw and kept intact New Zealand's record of no Test series defeats at home since 1979.

New Zealand finished the fifth day at 99 for three in their second innings after being forced to follow-on. Their first innings ended at 403 all out at lunch yesterday.

Pakistan scored 616 for five wickets declared in their only innings.

Openers Robert Vance and John Wright survived the post-lunch session and played Abdul Qadir easily enough to blunt Pakistan's hopes.

Three quick wickets after tea, two from part-time bowler Mudassar Nazar, came too late for Pakistan to have any chance of taking the Test.

Vance was out for 31 when he flicked a ball from Nazar to wicketkeeper Salim Yousuf. Andrew Jones went in identical fashion soon after for no score.

New Zealand then had some anxious moments when they lost their third wicket in eight runs as Wright went to another Yousuf catch off Qadir for 36.

Pakistan would have had New Zealand in further trouble had the fielders not spilled three catches.

But Pakistan really lost the chance of taking the match and the series earlier in the day when Ian Smith and Jeff Crowe batted for over an hour, taking New Zealand from their overnight score of 360 to 388.

This was followed by a fighting 40-minute last wicket stand by Richard Hadlee, barely able to walk because of a leg injury, and tail-ender Ewen Chatfield who was subjected to a barrage of bouncers by captain Imran Khan.

Hadlee collapsed in pain from his injured leg after trying to play a shot at one point.

Imran Khan was booed by the small crowd for bouncing Chatfield but they cheered when Hadlee smashed a straight six off him into the sight-screen to bring up the 400.

However, the gallant pair failed by 14 to avoid the follow-on as Chatfield skied a shot to Aamer Malik off Qadir to be out for a duck.

Only 18 wickets fell in the game, defying pre-match speculation that the pitch would be a spinner's dream. Pakistan's Javed Miandad took the Man of the Match award for hitting 271 runs.

Imran Khan agreed after the match that Pakistan had thrown their winning chance away by batting too slowly.

"We all expected the wicket to break-up. In fact it did not and it



Miandad: Man of the Match

looked like it wouldn't for another week," he told reporters. The first Test in Dunedin was abandoned because of rain and the second in Wellington ended in a dull draw.

New Zealand last lost a home series in 1979, against Pakistan. But this series and last year's three drawn Tests against England are beginning to prompt questions about the

nature of the negative cricket played and about flat pitches.

The games have been poorly attended.

Meanwhile, New Zealand have dropped medium-pacer Ewen Chatfield and off-spinner John Bracewell for their first one-day match against Pakistan in Christchurch on March 4.

Coach Bob Cunis said today the two players had been rested due to the amount of cricket they had played recently.

Hadlee was named in the 13-man squad but is almost certain not to play because of a strained achilles tendon. He ended the third Test walking on crutches.

Left-arm paceman Gary Robertson and all-rounder Chris Kuggeleijn were brought into the squad.

Team: John Wright (captain), Robert Vance, Andrew Jones, Martin Crowe, Mark Greatbatch, Jeff Crowe, Chris Kuggeleijn, Richard Hadlee, Ian Smith, Gary Robertson, Martin Snedden, Danny Morrison and Willie Watson.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN first innings 616 for five declared (Javed Miandad 271, Shoaib Mohammad 112, Salim Malik 80 not out, Imran Khan 69 not out)

NEW ZEALAND first innings (overnight 360 for seven) R. Vance c Shoaib Mohammad b Abdul Qadir 68 J. Wright c Rizwan-uz-Zaman b Tauseef Ahmed 47 A. Jones run out 47

M. Crowe c Salim Yousuf b Salim Jaffer 78	
S. Boock c Mudassar Nazar b Abdul Qadir 8	
M. Greatbatch b Abdul Qadir 76	
J. Crowe c Javed Miandad b Abdul Qadir 33	
J. Bracewell b Abdul Qadir 35	
I. Smith c Mudassar Nazar b Imran Khan 58	
R. Hadlee not out 14	
E. Chatfield c Aamer Malik b Abdul Qadir 19	
Extras (nb-10 lb-7 lb-2) 403	
Total 132	
Fall of wickets: 1-132 2-123 3-123 4-132 5-286 6-294 7-294 8-388 9-388	
Bowling: Salim Jaffer 18-6-44-1 (3-nb), Imran Khan 34-9-76-1, Tauseef Ahmed 29-28-106-1, Abdul Qadir 58.1-18-160-4 (7-nb), Shoaib Mohammad 2-1-1-0, Mudassar Nazar 3-1-7-0.	
NEW ZEALAND second innings J. Wright c Salim Yousuf b Abdul Qadir 36	
R. Vance c Salim Yousuf b Mudassar Nazar 31	
A. Jones c Salim Yousuf b Mudassar Nazar 0	
M. Crowe not out 9	
M. Greatbatch not out 13	
Extras (nb-10) 10	
Total for three wickets 99	
Fall of wickets: 1-68 2-71 3-76	
Did not bat: J. Crowe, I. Smith, J. Bracewell, S. Boock, R. Hadlee, E. Chatfield.	
Bowling: Imran Khan 5-4-13-0 (1-nb), Salim Jaffer 8-4-18-0 (2-nb), Tauseef Ahmed 12-4-23-0, Abdul Qadir 16-7-27-1 (6-nb), Shoaib Mohammad 1-0-5-0, Mudassar Nazar 8-2-13-1 (1-nb).	
Man of the Match: Javed Miandad	
Result: match drawn. Series drawn nil-all.	

Imran accuses New Zealand umpires of incompetence

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Feb 28. (Reuters) Pakistan captain Imran Khan fuelled controversy over the drawn third Test today when he accused the New Zealand umpires of incompetence.

"I won't go so far as to say there was cheating -- there was certainly a lot of incompetence," he said at the end of the third and final Test at Eden Park.

"One of the umpires was scared to give people out," Imran told a news conference. The three-match Test series was a nil-all draw.

Controversy arose yesterday when Pakistani team manager Intikhab Alam accused umpires Brian Aldridge and Steve Woodward of bias. He said five or six decisions went against Pakistan and it had reduced their chances of winning the game.

The New Zealand Cricket Council responded by accusing Pakistan of stirring things up for their own ends.

Premature

New Zealand captain John Wright said Intikhab had been premature in making his comments before the game was over.

"I thought the comments were premature coming in the middle of a Test match and still a day to go, and I didn't think they were completely accurate," Wright said.

Wright said there had to be codes of players behaviour and cricket boards had to ensure the players act in the correct manner. There were appropriate channels for complaint. He said he personally favoured the idea of neutral umpires.

Imran said he could not understand some of the decisions.

"In my biased opinion there were a lot of occasions when we couldn't see what benefit-of-doubt the batsman could get."

He said umpires were fair game for criticism as were players. "Why is an umpire so sacred he can't be criticised?" He also rejected criticism of Pakistani players surrounding the umpires to make concerted appeals.

"I don't think the players went over the top. After a while they lost faith and hope. Don't blame the players for putting the umpires under pressure," he said.

He said the umpires spoke to him during the game about players making dissenting comments. "Umpires shouldn't have to demand respect, they should command it," he said.

Dubai asked to ban golfers

LONDON, Feb 28. (AP) Fourteen British golfers, including 1987 money-winning champion Ian Woosnam, should be barred from competing in this week's PGA European Tour stop in Dubai because of links to South Africa, an anti-apartheid group said today.

Golf Against Apartheid said it had passed the request to authorities in the United Arab Emirates, where the £250,000 (\$438,000) tournament is scheduled to open Thursday.

"It is not my intention to disrupt the tournament or to organise a demonstration," said Roger Bunn, the group's founder. "But I have asked that certain players with South African stamps in their passports be refused entry to Dubai."

Bunn said the list included Woosnam, who earned more than \$1 million in prize money two seasons ago, Howard Clark, Paul Way, Sam Torrance, Philip Parkin and Chris Moody.

The other eight golfers on the list were not identified.

Morning Stars lift Geophysical Trophy

MORNING STARS, in one of the most exciting finals of the season, defeated ICC Exchange by two runs to lift Geophysical Cricket Trophy at the Airport Road Ground on Saturday.

When the last over started, ICC Exchange required seven runs for victory with their last pair at the wicket. They managed to score only three runs on the first five balls and still needed a four on the last one. Mansoor Khan had a wild swing, sending the ball to the mid-wicket boundary where it was fielded and returned to the bowler with a perfect throw.

Dawood Beg had no difficulty in breaking the stumps with Zamin Naqvi yards away from the crease thus giving Morning Stars a memorable victory.

Contribution

Earlier in the day, Morning Stars batted first and scored 266 runs for the loss of nine wickets in their allotted 40 overs. Shehzad and Inam gave their side a century stand and laid the foundations for a big score.

Inam was first to go at 111 after his contribution of 36. Razak started where Inam had left off and scored 72, which included five hits to the fence. Shehzad was unlucky to miss his century by 11 runs when he was stumped by Naser off Raffat Khan for 89.



Anjum (left) receives the trophy from Ashraf Khan.

He hit a six and 11 fours. Ever-consistent Ejaz scored 39 before being adjudged lbw. The rest of the innings folded quickly in pursuit of quick runs.

Akhtar, Amin and Raffat Khan chipped in with one wicket each.

ICC Exchange, requiring about 6.5 runs per over for victory were soon in trouble at 31 for two. Nasir and Aqueel Ashraf then put on 115 runs for the third wicket partnership before Nasir was out for 43 when the total stood at 146. After his departure, the wickets kept on falling at regular intervals at one end whereas at the other end Aqueel Ashraf played a memorable innings of 110 before being caught by Shabbir off Ejaz at 225.

Rashid Ansari 13, Shahid Butt 16, Amin 11, Zamin Naqvi 18 and Mansoor Khan 11 n.o. were the others batsmen who got into double figures.

Main

For Morning Stars, Dawood Beg and Ejaz were the main wicket-takers with three scalps each after giving away 30 and 32 runs respectively. Amjad and Razzak also got one wicket each while two batsmen were run-out.

At the end of the match, Ashraf Khan of KIFCO, the chief guest, awarded Geophysical Trophy to Anjum Raza, the skipper of Morning Stars. Aqueel Ashraf was declared Man of the Match and was awarded a special prize.

Lanka Colts overwhelm Prince

LANKA Colts-Trico stayed at the top of Group A in the Burud Trophy cricket tournament with a seven-wicket victory over Prince Cricket Club at the EPI Park over the weekend.

Put in to bat first, Prince struggled much of the time against some good bowling and fielding by Colts. Veteran Oliver with his leg-spin mesmerised the batsmen and claimed four wickets for 22 runs off his 6 overs.

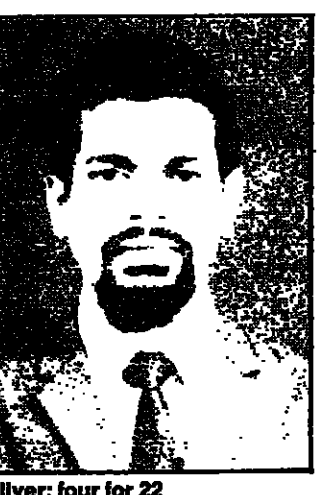
Apart from Akhtar and Shafiq, who made 32 and 27 respectively, none of the other batsmen could cope with the Colts attack. Solomons and Lal with two wickets each, Ralph with one wicket helped Colts to bundle

out Prince for 127 in 24 overs.

Colts started their reply through skipper Hiran and Ossen. The latter was first to go, lbw to Shahbaz with the score on 15. Roy then joined Hiran and immediately started the onslaught which kept the scoreboard moving steadily.

Hiran was run out trying to snatch a quick single when Colts were just 23 runs short of victory. Hiran's knock of 44 with 5 fours left little work for the ensuing batsmen. Ray saw his side win convincingly after hitting an unbeaten 53. Ralph remained 14 not out. Colts' final score was 132 for 3 in 23 overs.

For Prince, Shahbaz took two wickets.



Oliver: four for 22

Shinozuka to lead Mitsubishi challenge

TOKYO, Feb 28. (UPI) Mitsubishi Motors Corp., a major Japanese automaker affiliated with Chrysler Corp., of the United States, said today it will "mount determined attacks" on both the world rally and Asia-Pacific Rally Championship series this year.

The Tokyo-based company said its "Galant" four wheel-drive car powered by a 1,997 cc 4-cylinder 16-valve turbo engine and featuring power-assisted four-wheel steering system will be used for the races.

The company said driver Kenjiro "Lightning" Shinozuka, reigning champion of the Asia-Pacific Rally Championship, will be competing in the WRC events.

Cheever dreams of win on home track

SESTRIERE, Italy, Feb 28. (AP) Eddie Cheever, the only American driving in Formula One, dreams of his first career victory in the right place for a memorable celebration -- his native town of Phoenix, Arizona, which is organising its first-ever Grand Prix race on June 4.

"Racing at home will produce a mixture of negative and positive feelings. I'm already facing a lot of pressure, but it would be great winning there," said Cheever, 29, who has competed in 118 Grand Prix competitions.

Lived

Cheever, whose American father runs health and fitness centres in Rome, was born in Phoenix but has lived in Italy several months a year for more than 20 years.

"I have taken the best of two worlds," says Cheever who will be driving for the British-based Arrows team for the third consecutive season in this year's world F-1 championship.

Cheever's car will be powered by a US-made Ford Cosworth engine. Arrows, which used a turbo-Megatron last season, switched to Ford. All F-1 teams have had to resort to narrowly-aspirated motors this year following the phase-out of turbo-charged engines.

Cheever placed fourth in a giant slalom race for pilots which was won by Italy's Riccardo Patrese and showed a good technique in indoor soccer. He helped an Italian team to down, 7-5, a squad of French drivers led by former world champion Alain Prost.

The American noted that the



Eddie Cheever

overwhelming supremacy of the Japanese-made Honda engines has produced a streak of dull, one-sided races in the last three years.

Suspect

"There should be more excitement for fans and drivers this year, with all cars theoretically starting at the same level. I suspect however that the aspirated engines of Honda will still have something extra."

Honda has made all the right choices to dominate F-1. It has the best technology, the best team and the best drivers."

The McLaren cars, powered by turbocharged Honda engines, dominated the 1988 constructors championship and its drivers, Ayrton Senna of Brazil and Prost, won all championship races except one -- the Italian GP in Monza in which two Ferrari cars finished 1-2 and Cheever placed third.

It was the only finish among the top-three for Cheever in 1988.

Ivanchuk regains chess lead

LINARES, Spain, Feb 28. (Reuters) Vasily Ivanchuk of the Soviet Union regained the lead in an international chess tournament yesterday, winning his adjourned seventh round game against compatriot Andrei Sokolov after 56 moves.

Ivanchuk became the tournament's only unbeaten player

when Boris Gulkov of the United States lost his fifth round adjourned game against Jan Timman of the Netherlands after 80 moves.

Former world champion Anatoly Karpov, who did not play yesterday, slipped to second place with one more game played than Ivanchuk.

Jazz brush aside Nets

NEW YORK, Feb 28. (AP) Roundup of National Basketball Association games played last night:

Jazz 109, Nets 96

Karl Malone responded to his worst game of the season with 31 points and John Stockton added 25 points and 15 assists as the Utah Jazz snapped a four-game road losing streak with a 109-96 victory over the New Jersey Nets.

Utah's defensive effort came the night after the NBA's best defense gave up 128 points in a 39-point loss to Indiana, with Malone scoring a season-low 14 point.

Hawks 105, Mavericks 83

Moses Malone scored eight points and Dominique Wilkins six during a decisive 23-11 run in the second quarter, and Atlanta went on to defeat the Dallas Mavericks 105-83, the Hawks' seventh victory in eight games.

Wilkins led the scoring with 20 points and Malone added 18 for the Hawks.

Bucks 105, Spurs 96

Ricky Pierce scored 11 fourth-quarter points as the Milwaukee Bucks squandered a 24-point lead and then rallied with two 10-0 runs to beat San Antonio

105-96, sending the Spurs to a club-record 11th straight loss.

San Antonio trailed 70-46 with 9:44 to go in the third quarter, but behind the play of guard Michael Anderson, the Spurs outscored the Bucks 34-10 to tie the game at 80-80 with 9:53 remaining.

Bullets 104, Rockets 98

Bernard King scored 34 points, including eight straight in a 17-4 Washington run late in the game, lifting the Bullets past Houston 104-98, the Rockets' fifth consecutive loss.

Playing in place of the injured Jeff Malone, rookie Ledell Eackles added 25 points, including 11 in the fourth period, to help the Bullets to their fourth win in their last five games.

Warriors 141, Nuggets 132

Chris Mullin led seven Golden State players in double figures with 30 points and the Warriors raced to their 11th straight home victory with a 141-132 decision over the Denver Nuggets.

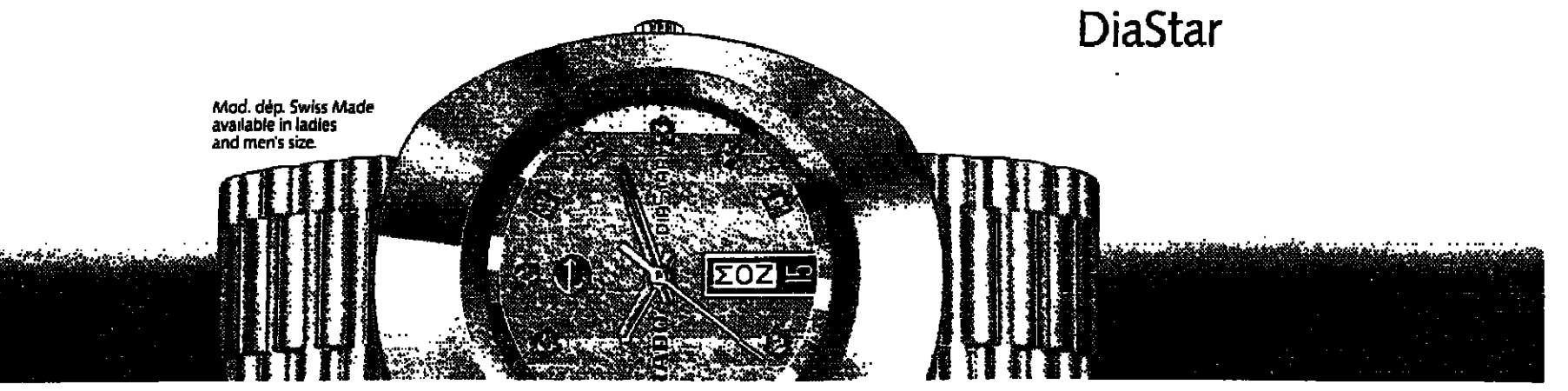
Results

Atlanta	105	Dallas	96
Utah	109	New Jersey	96
Washington	104	Houston	98
Milwaukee	105	San Antonio	96
Golden State	141	Denver	132
Seattle	116	Sacramento	107

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SPORTS

JUVENTUS TAKE ON NAPOLI IN UEFA CUP

Real seek revenge against PSV

LONDON, FEB. 28. (AP): Real Madrid, the illustrious European soccer power that has tried for 23 years to win its seventh Champions Cup title, goes for revenge tomorrow evening against the team that knocked it out in last season's semifinals.

The Spaniards, who also lost in the semis in 1987, face defending champion PSV Eindhoven in the outstanding quarterfinal match-up of the competition.

In the other three Champions Cup first-leg quarterfinals, IFK Gothenburg meet Steaua Bucharest, Werder Bremen tackle AC Milan and Monaco face Galatasaray of Turkey, the tournament's rank outsider.

In the last eight of the Cup Winners Cup, defending champion Mechelen travel to Eintracht Frankfurt, Siredez Sofia meet SV Roda, Dynamo Bucharest host Sampdoria and Agha Agha take on Barcelona.

Famous

UEFA Cup matches feature Victoria Bucharest against Dynamo Dresden in an all-Eastern Europe affair, VfB Stuttgart against Real San Sebastian and Juventus against Napoli in a pairing between two of Italy's most famous names.

The fourth UEFA Cup game, between Scotland's Heart of Midlothian and West German powerhouse Bayern Munich, was being played this evening in Edinburgh.

During its golden age of the 1950s and 1960s, Real Madrid won the first five Champions Cup competitions to be held, and added a sixth crown in 1966.

Since then, it has won the UEFA Cup twice but has striven in vain to capture another Champions Cup.



Maradona: Juventus must find a way of stopping him

ponents Cup, Europe's most prestigious club tournament.

Two years ago, Real lost 4-2 on aggregate to Bayern Munich in the semifinals and came close again last season before going down at the same stage to Eindhoven on the away goals rule.

Both Real and PSV are clear leaders in their respective league standings. The Spaniards are unbeaten with 37 points from 22 games, three points ahead of Barcelona. Eindhoven leads the Dutch League by five points.

Real's chances of a strong first-leg showing in Eindhoven have been considerably boosted by a catalogue of injuries at the

Dutch club.

The timing could not have been worse for the champions, who are likely to be without Barry van Aerle, Eric Gerets, Hans Gillhaus and goalkeeper Hans van Breukelen for tomorrow's game.

"There are so many injuries that everything is possible," PSV manager Guus Hiddink said when asked about the composition of his team.

Real is expected to be at full-strength.

Running a close second to the Eindhoven-Real rematch, in international interest, is the quarterfinal clash between Wer-

der Bremen and AC Milan, champions of West Germany and Italy, respectively.

Bremen's manager, William Lenke, described Milan as "among the best in the world. We cannot afford to make any mistakes," he said.

Like the match in Eindhoven, Bremen's game is a sellout, with 200 journalists accredited to cover the action.

"We have never experienced anything like this in Bremen," said Lenke, whose team lies second in domestic standings this season.

After a streak of defeats which virtually put it out of the Italian championship race, Milan hit a purple patch Sunday, thrashing Pescara 6-1 and displaying the sparkling, offensive-minded play which earned it the Italian title last year.

The Milan lineup will include the dangerous Dutch trio of Ruud Gullit, Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard.

"At last I will play an entire match, with both legs," said Gullit, who only played portions of previous Champions Cup games because of knee and thigh injuries.

One player likely to be especially nervous tomorrow is Göteborg's teen-age goalie, Magnus Verdin.

The 18-year-old is in line for his first European game against experienced Steaua Bucharest following the transfer of Eric Thorstved to England's Tottenham Hotspur.

French international forward Jose Touré misses Monaco's game against Galatasaray. The hosts field both their English stars, Glenn Hoddle and Mark Hateley, however.

In the Cup Winners Cup, defending champion Mechelen will be without its Belgian international Bruno Versavel, who did not join the team in Frankfurt after his mother died over the weekend.

His team will be full of confidence, however, after winning the European Super Cup against Eindhoven earlier this month and extending its lead in the Belgian championship to four points with a string of four victories.

Sampdoria will look to its prolific international striker Gianluca Vialli to score enough first-leg goals against visiting Dynamo Bucharest.

Barcelona, bidding to emulate arch-rival Real Madrid by winning a European trophy, is well aware of the threat posed by Aarhus despite the Danish team's lack of star status.

Easy

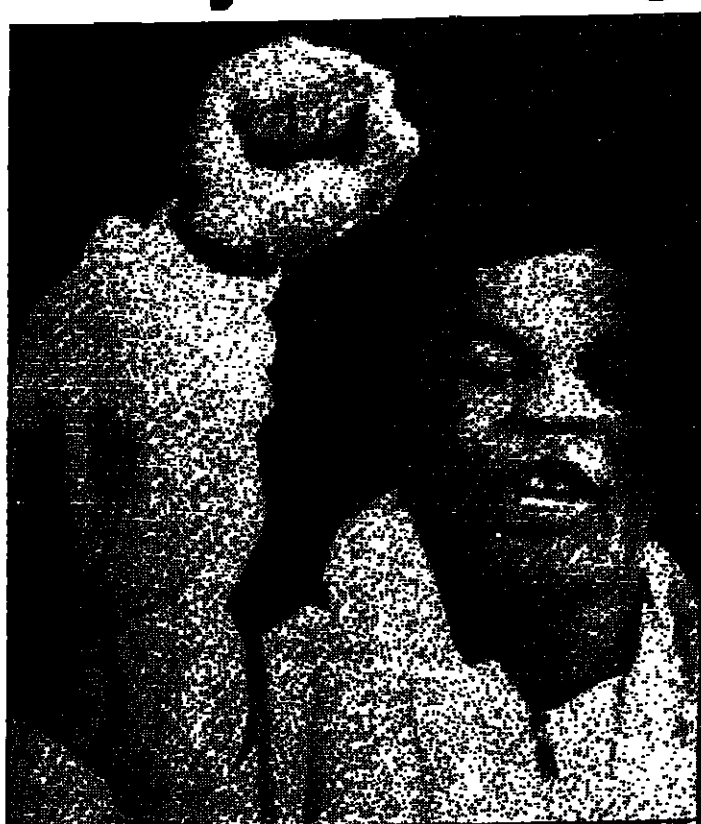
"Everyone knows that Danish soccer has quality," said Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff. "We're not expecting to have an easy time of it."

No game in the UEFA Cup captures the imagination more than the all-Italian confrontation between Juventus, with its dynamic Soviet midfielder Alexander Zavarov, and Diego Maradona's Napoli.

Giampietro Boniperti, president of Juventus, criticised UEFA for allowing two teams from the same country to be paired together.

He got nowhere with his protest and now has to find a way of stopping Maradona and the rest of the Argentine super star's Napoli team-mates from dumping his Turin team out of the competition.

Cayton resumes fight to get Tyson away from King



Tyson after his win over Bruno

NEW YORK, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Mike Tyson's estranged manager yesterday said he has asked the New York State Athletic Commission to prevent promoter Don King from interfering with the world heavyweight boxing champion.

"I will not allow him (Tyson) to be added to the scores of boxers who claim to have been raped and pillaged by Don King," Tyson's manager, Bill Cayton, said at a news conference.

"I will do everything in my power to keep him from committing economic suicide with Don King," Cayton, who has a contract to manage Tyson through February 1992, said he asked the commission to fine King and revoke his license to promote fights for attempting "to steal" the heavyweight champion.

King signed Tyson to an exclusive four-year promotional contract without Cayton's consent last October. But New York State Athletic Commission rules prohibit promoters from dealing directly with a boxer without consent of his manager.

Cayton said he has tried for months to work out a compromise with King, but none were acceptable.

Last Saturday's fight, in which

Tyson stopped Briton Frank Bruno in the fifth round, was allowed to take place with the Las Vegas Hilton as the promoter. But with that fight out of the way, the Cayton-King feud resumed yesterday.

The three-member New York commission will decide later this week if it will hold a hearing on Cayton's complaint.

If King is found guilty of tampering with Tyson, his license to promote in New York could be suspended or revoked and other US boxing commissions would be expected to honour the ruling.

Cayton's lawyer, Thomas Puccio, did not rule out other legal manoeuvres in the courts and with other state boxing commissions in the battle over control of the undefeated heavyweight champion.

"We have taken the first step and will take whatever other steps that we think are appropriate," Puccio said.

Cayton, who was not at ringside last Saturday and has not spoken with Tyson in months, feels he could rekindle the bond with the 22-year-old champion if King were out of the way.

"If Mike Tyson could get out of the influence of King I believe he would come back to me," he said.

US athletics team set for Indian athletics championships

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 28. (Reuters): A 39-member US squad, including four defending champions, will compete at the second World Indoor Athletics Championships in Budapest later this week, the Athletics Congress (TAC) announced yesterday.

TAC, the sport's governing body in the United States, selected its team for Budapest based on results from last Friday's US Indoor Championships in New York and a meet the previous week in Louisiana.

Four members of the team will defend titles they won at the first World Indoor Championships in Indianapolis in 1987, including Olympic bronze medalist Tonie Campbell, who will run the 60 metres hurdles.

The US team is particularly strong in that event with Olympic

110 metres hurdles champion Roger Kingdom, who qualified second behind Campbell on Friday.

Antonio McKay will defend his title in the 400 metres and long jumper Larry Myricks and triple jumper Mike Conley will also have the opportunity to repeat as world indoor champions.

Diane Dixon, who won her seventh consecutive US indoor title at 400 metres last Friday, is one of 16 women who will be making the trip to Budapest.

Notably absent from the women's squad is double Olympic champion Jackie Joyner-Kersey, who qualified for the team with a second place finish in the 55-metres hurdles on Friday.

Joyner-Kersey decided it was more important for her to train for the upcoming outdoor season than travel to Budapest.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Local cricket

THE finals of the "Gulf Bank Trophy" organised by the United Cricketers, will be played on Sunday at the New Ground in Ahmad. Starlite face Unity in this full-day game. Starting time is 0900 am. Umpires nominated are from Bright Stars and Falcon. The chief guest is Mohammed Yousuf Al Saif, general manager (Domestic Banking Group). The prize distribution will be held in the evening the same day.

Said Aouita

BUDAPEST, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Said Aouita bids to return to gold medal-winning ways this weekend with a first appearance at the World Indoor Athletics Championships. Organisers confirmed today that Aouita had entered the three-day championships beginning on Friday.

Diego Maradona

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Diego Maradona stepped on to the road to riches and fame 12 years ago yesterday when he played for Argentina's national soccer team for the first time as a raw but exceptionally gifted 16-year-old.

Cup qualifier

BANGKOK, Feb. 28. (Reuters): China beat Thailand 3-0 (half-time 0-0) in a World Cup East Asian Group Five first round qualifying match yesterday. Scores: Tang Yaodong (54th minute), Ma Lin (63rd, 79th).

Hero's welcome

LONDON, Feb. 28. (AP): Frank Bruno flew home today to a hero's welcome usually more suited for world champions than runners-up. Bruno, stopped in the fifth round by Mike Tyson in their world heavyweight title fight in Las Vegas on Saturday, was greeted by well-wishers and reporters as he arrived at Heathrow airport.

Big bonuses

LONDON, Feb. 28. (Reuters): World champion Douglas Wakiburi and double World Cup winner Ahmed Salah lead a star-studded parade in the London marathon in April, with the added incentive of a \$100,000 bonus. The organisers said yesterday any man who beats two hours and 30 minutes and any woman who beats two hours 20 minutes — both times well within the world best marks — would receive a bonus of \$100,000.

Mary Slaney

PORTLAND, Oregon, Feb. 28. (AP): Coach Bill Dellinger says distance runner Mary Slaney has resumed workouts after missing two weeks of training with a sore Achilles tendon.

Reggi triumphs

OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb. 28. (AP): Raffaella Reggi of Italy outlasts Australian Elizabeth Smiley 5-7, 6-2, 6-4 yesterday to advance to second-round play in the \$100,000 Virginia Slims of Oklahoma tennis tournament.

British soccer

LONDON, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Results of British soccer matches played yesterday.

Scottish F.A. Cup fourth round, second replay: Dundee United 1 Aberdeen 0 (Dundee United away to Rangers in quarterfinals).

Scottish Division Two: East Stirling 0 Cowdenbeath 0.

Bridge

RESULTS of the SAS Bridge Club game played on Sunday:

1st: Nadia Arab & Madge McKenney; 2nd: Rabab Abbassi & Helen Hughes; 3rd: Clara Basiere & Suzanne Cattermore.

Sheikh Fahd elected KOC president



SHEIKH Fahd Al Ahmed was elected president of the Kuwait Olympic Committee (KOC) on Monday evening.

Sheikh Fahd's election to the top sports post in Kuwait came when the general assembly of the Kuwait Olympic Committee met to elect the new board.

Ubad Al Enzi was elected to the post of general secretary while Damsan was named treasurer.

The assembly also elected 10 more members for the board. They are: Sheikh Jaber Saud Al Sabah, Sheikh Khalifa Al Sabah, Abdullah Al Jaber, Sheikh Mubarak Jaber Al Ali, Ali Yusuf, Abdulrahman Al Said, Jawad Khalaf, Nasser Al Ayar, Dr Shamlan Al Essa, Youssef Al Shamlan Al Roumi and Eid Al Thayed.

Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed is also the president of the Kuwait Football Association and the chairman of the Olympic Council of Asia.

Portugal and Nigeria win semifinals

RIYADH, Feb. 28. (AP): Portugal pulled off a smashing 1-0 upset against Brazil today in the semifinals of the World Youth Cup soccer tournament. Half-time score was 0-0.

The Portuguese out-thought, out-ran and outplayed the Brazilians to go through to the March 3 final to play the winner of the other semifinal between the United States and Nigeria.

In the other semifinal today, Nigeria beat the United States 2-1.

They were drawn 1-1 at full time, but Nigeria scored the clincher in 30 minutes of extra time.

UEFA Cup

BUCHAREST, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Victoria Bucharest (Romania) and Dynamo Dresden (East Germany) drew 1-1 (half-time 0-1) in the first leg of their UEFA Cup quarterfinal today.

Astaphan betrayed Johnson: therapist

NEW YORK, Feb. 28. (AP): Sprinter Ben Johnson was a "pharmaceutical testing ground," pumped with steroids without his direct knowledge before the summer Olympics by a doctor who called drug tests "a joke," sports therapist Jack Scott contended yesterday.

Scott's role in Johnson's training for the Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, where the sprinter failed a drug test and lost his 100-metre dash gold medal, is detailed in the April issue of Runner's World magazine.

A copy was made available to the Associated Press yesterday. Scott then confirmed the information in a telephone interview from his office in Berkeley, California.

Scott said he decided to speak out now — four months after the Olympics — because he was appalled by the "disloyalty" shown by Dr Jamie Astaphan, Johnson's personal physician for five years.

Kohde-Kilsch falls in 1st round

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Fourth seed Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany let four match points slip away before falling to American Peanut Louie Harper at the \$200,000 U.S. Women's Hard-court Championships yesterday.

Harper scored the first upset of the tournament with a gutsy 1-6 7-6 7-6 victory over the 15th-ranked Kohde-Kilsch.

Attacked

"I just wanted to play my game," said Harper, ranked 62nd in the world. "I attacked and played aggressively. She was tentative during the whole match." Harper said of the two-hour 20 minute contest.

The other two seeds in action

"Dr Astaphan recently came forward and said he never gave Ben Johnson steroids and Ben Johnson went to Toronto and got the stanozolol on his own," Scott said.

Scott, who worked extensively with Johnson during the Canadian's training for the Seoul Olympics, said Astaphan turned against the sprinter because of jealousy.

Success

"Astaphan was irate that Charlie Francis was getting the credit (for Johnson's success) as coach and Ben Johnson was getting credit, but he wasn't," Scott said. "Now, when they're caught, he doesn't want to have anything to do with it, he wants to dump it all in Ben Johnson's lap."

"He (Astaphan) denied for months that he ever used stanozolol, and then the drug company came out and said it had

been sending it to him for a long time," Scott contended.

"In Ben Johnson's case, he is one of the most decent people I've met in sports. It's a tragedy what this has cost him because of the trust he put in his coach and his doctor. I think he has to accept some responsibility for that, but not the primary responsibility."

"Astaphan started Johnson on steroids without the sprinter's direct knowledge, even though, certainly Johnson consented to continue," the magazine said.

At times, Scott said, Johnson ingested as many as 20 or 30 pills at a time.

Scott said that when he asked Astaphan about the possible repercussions from drug testing, the doctor replied, "the tests are a joke."

Scott has been an adamant anti-drug crusader who testified before a US senate subcommittee hearing on drug-use in sports in 1973.

German in the second set tiebreak, surrendering just one point after taking a 3-0 lead.

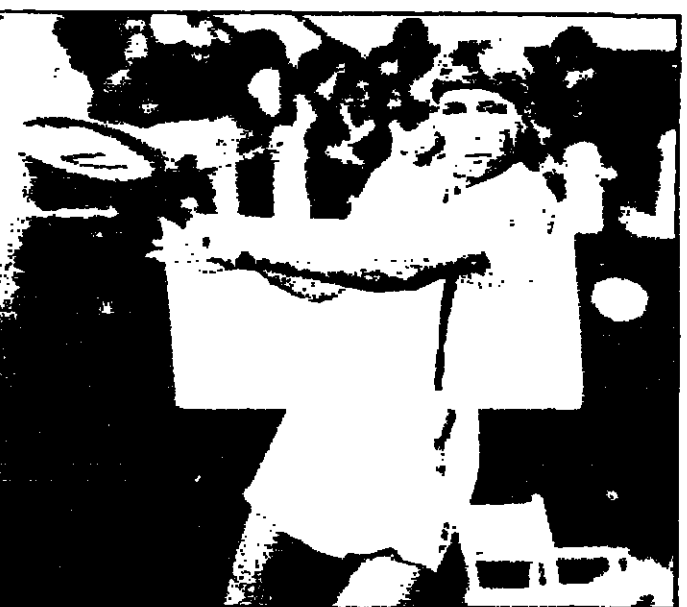
In the deciding set, Kohde-Kilsch won up 5-4 and had four break points that would have closed out the match. Harper, however, managed to fight off all four match points and held serve to level the set 5-5.

Control

After each player held serve for 6-6, Harper once again took control of the tiebreak. The American built a commanding 5-2 lead and won the next two points to complete the upset.

Top seed Steffi Graf of West Germany was to begin defence of her title this evening against American Beth Herr.

Navratilova aims to find her best game



Navratilova: wants to break Graf's stranglehold on Grand Slam titles

OAKLAND, Feb. 28. (Reuters): Martina Navratilova has set aside her quest to regain the world number one ranking, but the eight-time Wimbledon champion is certain she can break Steffi Graf's current stranglehold on Grand Slam titles.

"Getting the number one ranking back is not my main goal," the world number two said during last week's tournament here. "I would like to be there, but right now I am concentrating more on improving my game, she said."

Sensation

Navratilova, who lost the number one ranking to Graf in August, 1987, has not won a Grand Slam singles title since the US Open that year. Since then, the West German sensation has won five consecutive Grand Slam titles.

But Navratilova is sure she still has what it takes to win the big tournaments.

"If I thought I couldn't win another Grand Slam tournament, I'd bag it right now. But I don't think I've found my best game yet. More than anything, that is my goal now," she said.

After winning her first tournament in Sydney, Australia, she was beaten in the quarterfinals of the Australian Open in January by Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia.

"Looking back, maybe I shouldn't have gone to Australia," Navratilova said. "I wasn't totally ready. There isn't enough off-season between the championships (in November) and the first Grand Slam event and that definitely hurt me," she said.

Last week Navratilova suffered another set-back when she was beaten by Larisa Savchenko of the Soviet Union in the semifinals of a California tournament she had won four times in the past.

"In January, she (Savchenko) lost to a girl ranked number 200, then she comes here and beats me like a drum," a surprised Navratilova said after that upset.

Despite those losses, Navratilova said she is pleased with her progress under new coach Craig Kardon. "Craig will coach me until I quit tennis," she said.

Provides

But Navratilova is not entertaining any thought of quitting in the near future and says the record book provides enough motivation for her to continue working on her game.

"I'd like to win that ninth Wimbledon (singles title). Nobody has done that."

"And Billie Jean's (King) record of 20 Wimbledon titles (including singles, doubles and mixed doubles) is in sight, so I'd like to go for that too," said Navratilova, whose Wimbledon stands at 16 titles.



● EGYPT AIR beat the National Bank of Kuwait in friendly tennis matches at the Ramada El Salam Hotel tennis courts recently. Two of Egyptian national team players — Hisham and Hany Nasser played for Egypt Air, who won all their matches except one. In this game Hasan Kabbani and Walid Salah of NBK beat Egypt Air's Hany Nasser and Gamal El Amir. Above: an action shot of one of the matches.